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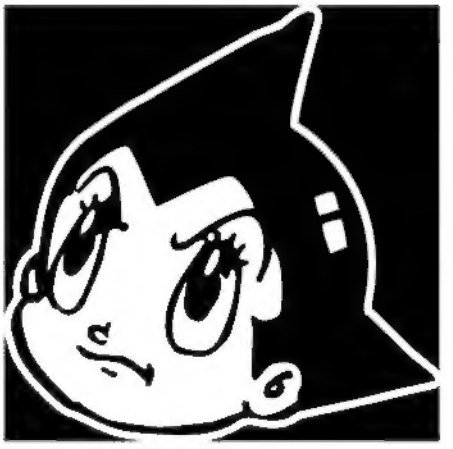
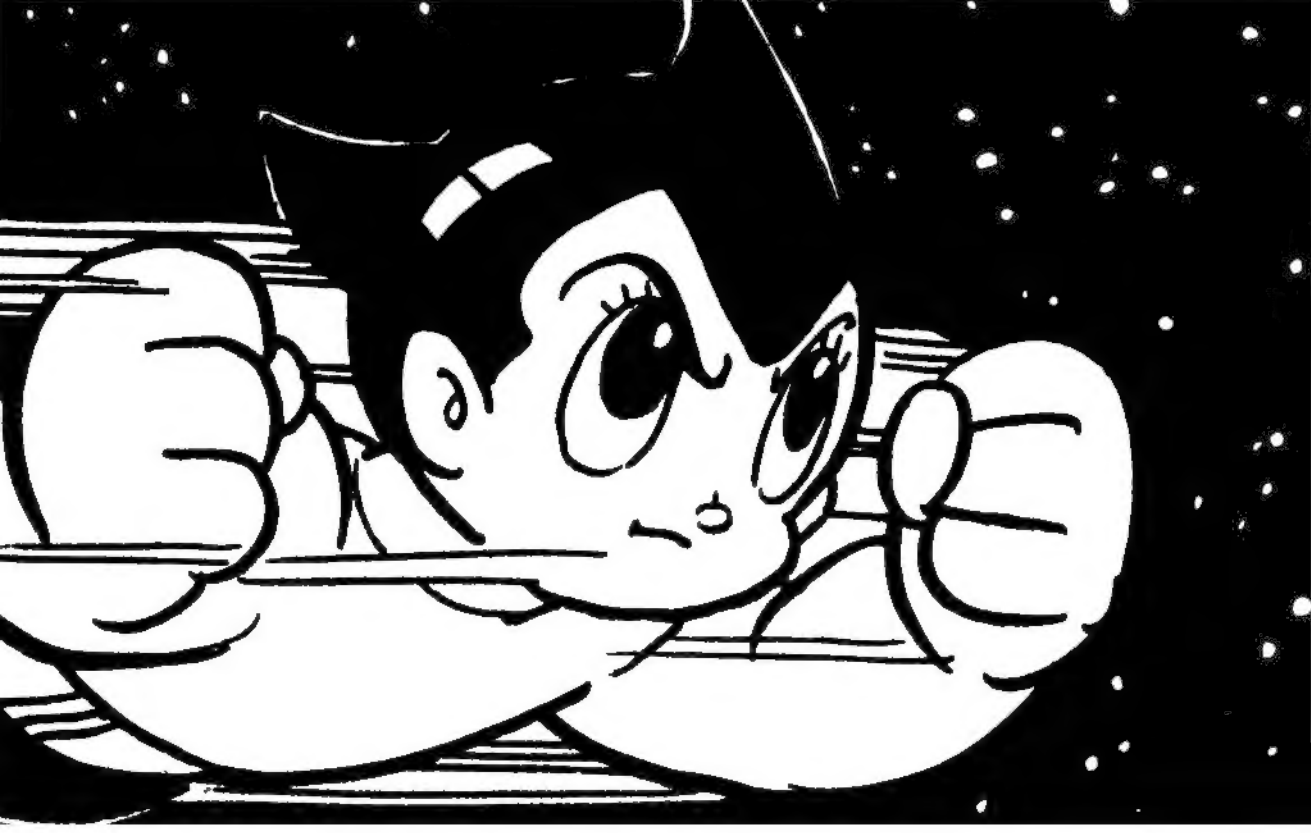
Osamu Tezuka's Original

ASTRO BOY





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ASTRO BOY® VOLUME 8

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A NOTE TO READERS

Many non-Japanese, including people from Africa and Southeast Asia, appear in Osamu Tezuka's works. Sometimes these people are depicted very differently from the way they actually are today, in a manner that exaggerates a time long past or shows them to be from extremely undeveloped lands. Some feel that such images contribute to racial discrimination, especially against people of African descent. This was never Osamu Tezuka's intent, but we believe that as long as there are people who feel insulted or demeaned by these depictions, we must not ignore their feelings.

We are against discrimination, in all its forms, and intend to continue to work for its elimination. Nonetheless, we do not believe it would be proper to revise these works. Tezuka is no longer with us, and we cannot erase what he has done, and to alter his work would only violate his rights as a creator. More importantly, stopping publication or changing the content of his work would do little to solve the problems of discrimination that exist in the world.

We are presenting Osamu Tezuka's work as it was originally created, without changes. We do this because we believe it is also important to promote the underlying themes in his work, such as love for mankind and the sanctity of life. We hope that when you, the reader, encounter this work, you will keep in mind the differences in attitudes, then and now, toward discrimination, and that this will contribute to an even greater awareness of such problems.

— Tezuka Productions and Dark Horse Comics

"ONCE UPON A TIME" ASTRO BOY TALES, PART 3

First serialized from September 28, 1968 to
February 28, 1969 in the *Sankei* newspaper.

The Story Thus Far

It is the 21st century. A spaceship carrying Scara, a woman from a planet of locust-like creatures, crashes and explodes in Tokyo Bay. Astro Boy, who has come to the site to find out what happened, is tossed from the shock along with Scara into the fourth dimension. He finds himself not in the 21st century Tokyo in which he had been living, but in the 20th century, in 1969.

Astro and Scara start living together in Tokyo, but after a series of mishaps, Scara goes missing. Astro is sold by some evil men and winds up in Vietnam, where his body sinks to the bottom of the Mekong river after he runs out of energy.

In 1993 Astro's body is accidentally recovered from the river and shipped to his old friend Shingo Yamanaka. Shingo, now an adult, helps restore Astro to life.

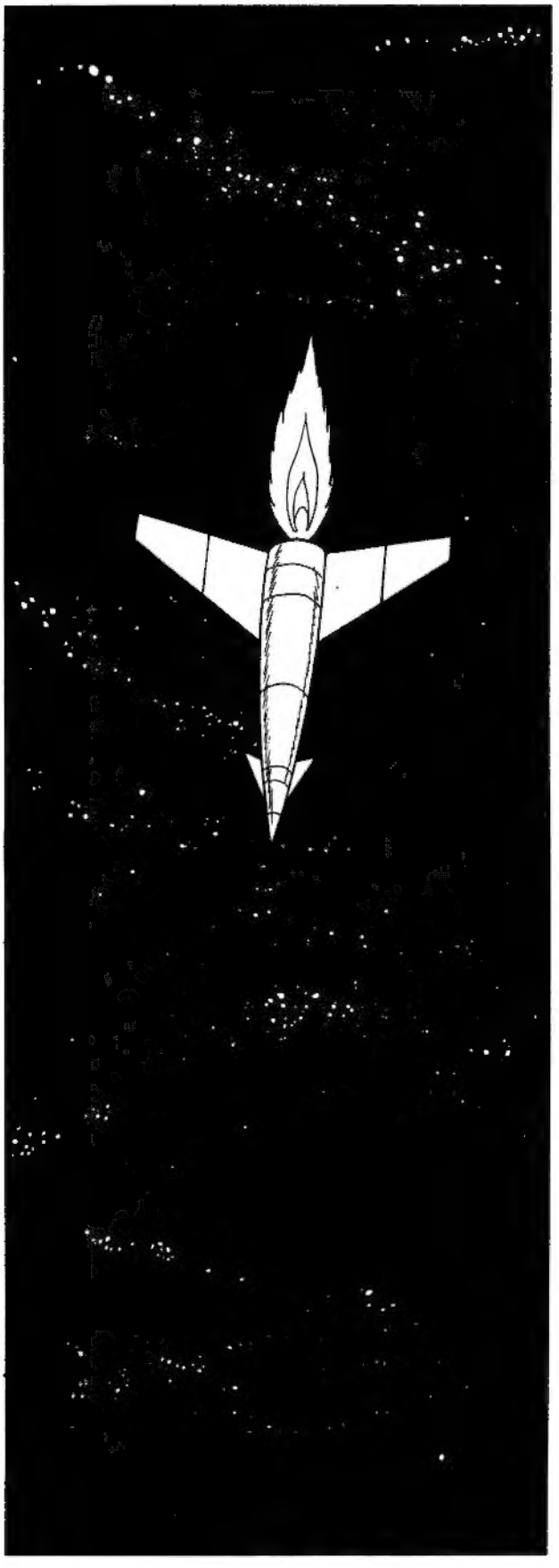
When Chirichiru, a robot made by professor Ochanomizu, is mistakenly arrested for a crime, Astro catches the true criminal and proves Chiruchiru's innocence. But Chiruchiru is nonetheless sentenced to death and turned into scrap.

Astro again runs out of energy and, in a meadow on Mt. Tanigawa, gradually corrodes through exposure to the elements.

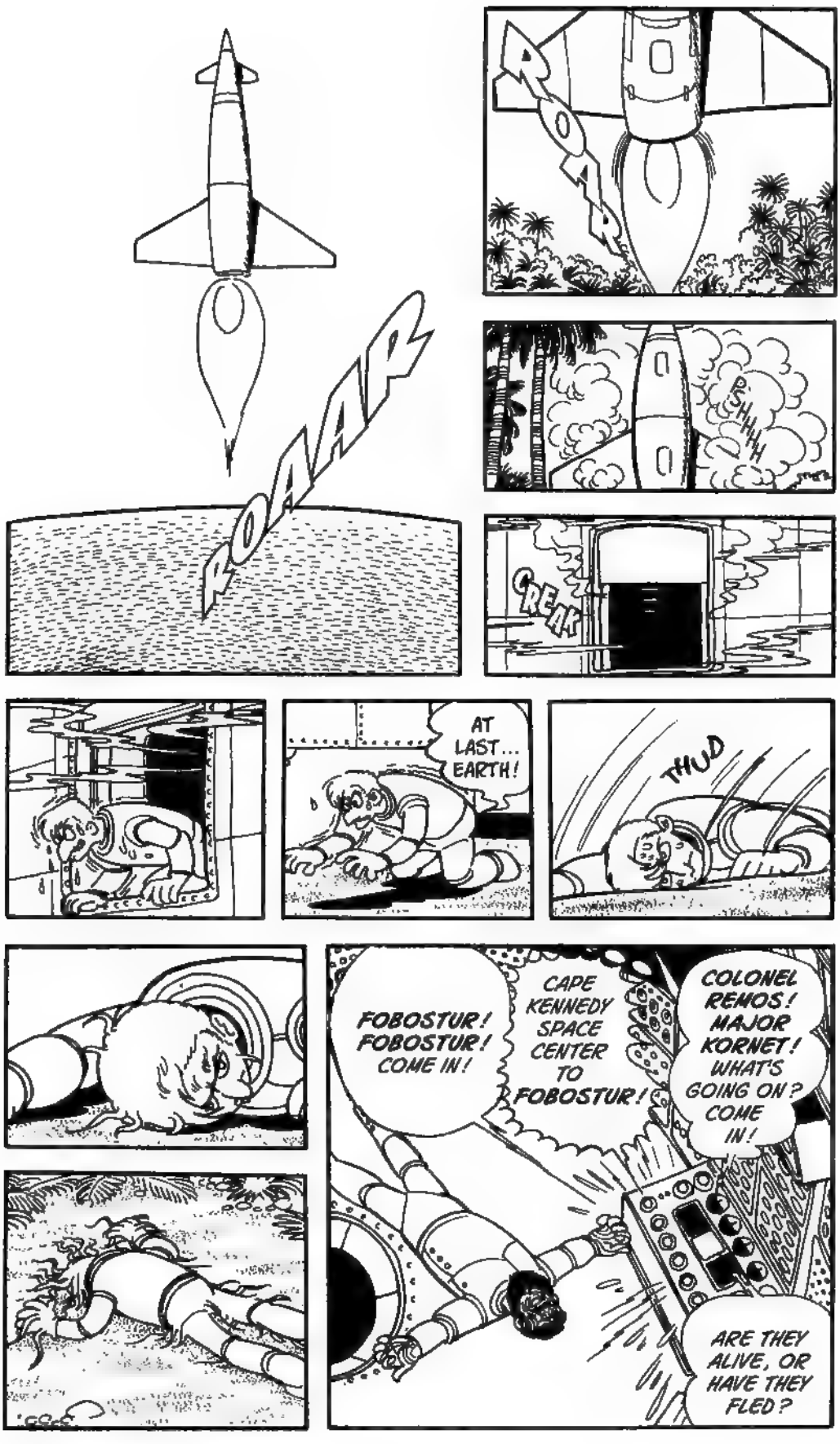
Time passes until it is again the 21st century. Dr. Tenma, the head of the Ministry of Science, loses his only son, Tobio, in a traffic accident. Using then state-of-the-art technology, he creates a robot identical to his son, but in order for this robot to come alive, Scara must blow up the Astro on Mt. Tanigawa. She does this because she knows two identical Astros cannot exist at the same time.

Dr. Tenma at first treats Astro just like his own son, Tobio, but the scientist begins to hate Astro because he doesn't grow, and he eventually sells him to the circus.

LIVING MOLD FROM OUTER SPACE

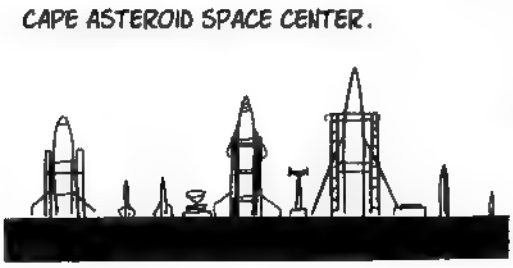


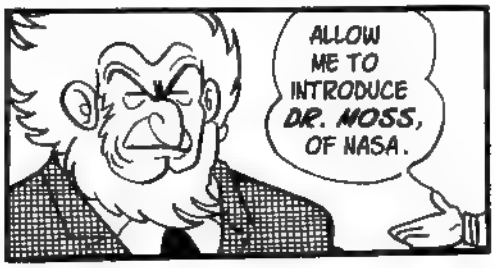
FOR A LONG, LONG WHILE, ASTRO REMAINED SHUT INSIDE THE RINGMASTER'S LOCKER, OUT OF ENERGY AND UNCONSCIOUS.
AND DURING THIS TIME, SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT TERRIFIED PEOPLE ALL OVER THE EARTH.

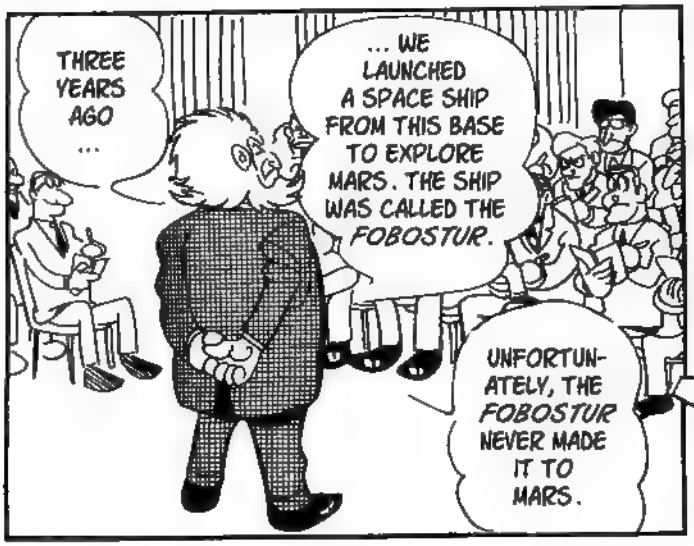

ROAAR
ROAAR
PSHHHH
CREAK
AT LAST... EARTH!
THUD
FOBOSTUR! FOBOSTUR! COME IN!
CAPE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER TO FOBOSTUR!
COLONEL REMOS! MAJOR KORNET! WHAT'S GOING ON? COME IN!
ARE THEY ALIVE, OR HAVE THEY FLED?

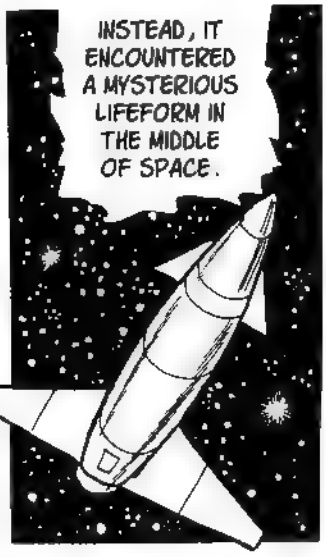
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS... WHAT I AM ABOUT TO TELL YOU HERE AT CAPE ASTEROID...

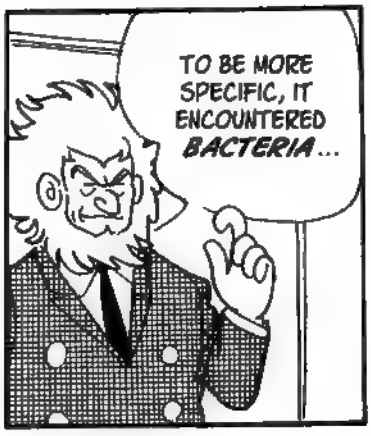
... MUST BE KEPT UNDER WRAPS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE...
WE FIND OURSELVES IN AN EXTREMELY GRAVE SITUATION, AND SHOULD THIS INFORMATION LEAK OUT PREMATURELY, IT WOULD CAUSE A WORLDWIDE *PANIC*...


CAPE ASTEROID SPACE CENTER.

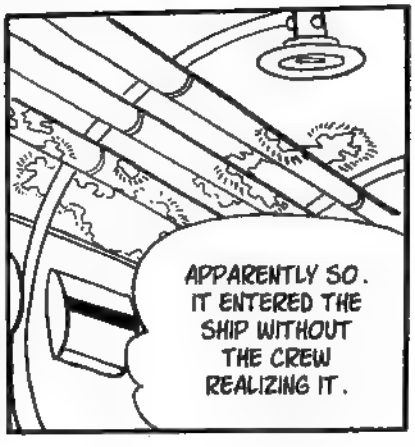

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE *DR. MOSS*, OF NASA.

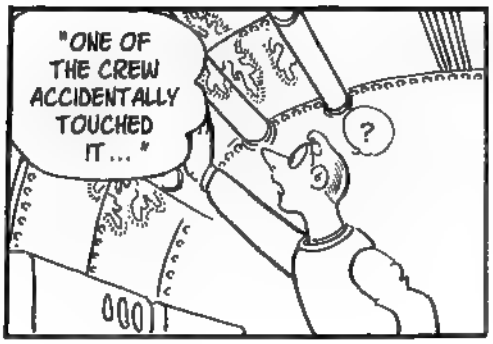

THREE YEARS AGO ...
... WE LAUNCHED A SPACE SHIP FROM THIS BASE TO EXPLORE MARS. THE SHIP WAS CALLED THE *FOBOSTUR*.
UNFORTUN-ATELY, THE *FOBOSTUR* NEVER MADE IT TO MARS.


INSTEAD, IT ENCOUNTERED A MYSTERIOUS LIFEFORM IN THE MIDDLE OF SPACE.


TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, IT ENCOUNTERED *BACTERIA*...

BACTERIA JUST FLOATING OUT THERE?


APPARENTLY SO. IT ENTERED THE SHIP WITHOUT THE CREW REALIZING IT.



"WHAT FOLLOWED WAS A ***LIVING HELL***. THE ILLNESS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE TO THE OTHER CREWMEMBERS, WHO BEGAN DYING, ONE BY ONE. IT WAS A FRIGHTENINGLY INFECTIOUS DISEASE, AND IF THE SHIP HAD RETURNED TO EARTH IN THAT CONDITION IT WOULD HAVE CAUSED A ***DISASTER*** OF UNTHINKABLE PROPORTIONS."

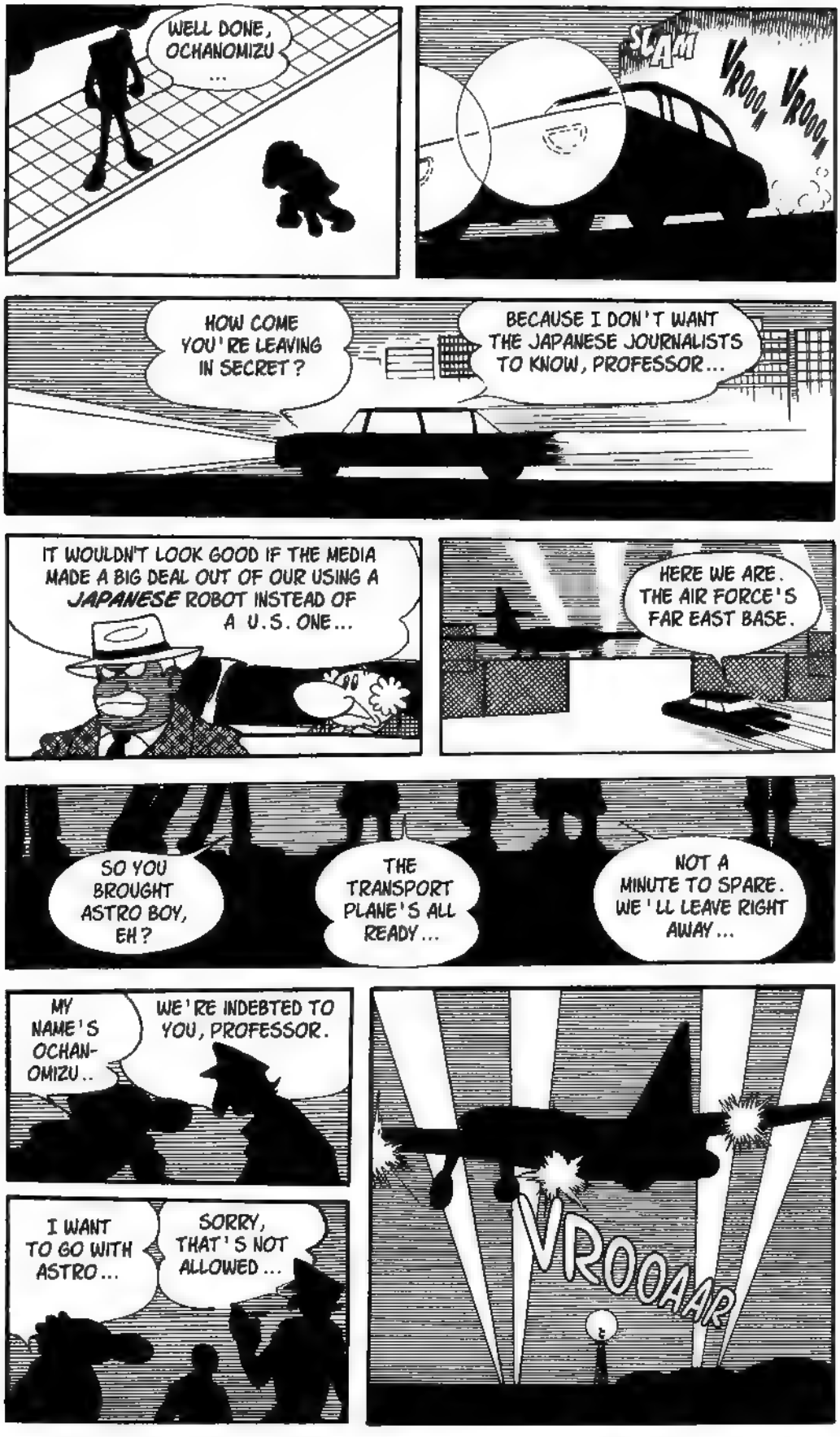
"WE DIDN'T HAVE A MINUTE TO LOSE, SO WE CONTACTED THE SHIP AND TOLD IT TO CHANGE COURSE AND HEAD INTO ***OUTER SPACE***. WE TOLD THE MEN THEY COULD NEVER RETURN TO EARTH."

"WE HAD, IN EFFECT, SENTENCED THE CREW TO DEATH, BUT WE WERE NONETHELESS SHOCKED WHEN WE RECEIVED A RESPONSE OF "NO!" WE THEN DISCOVERED TO OUR HORROR THAT THEY WERE ABOUT TO ENTER THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE..."

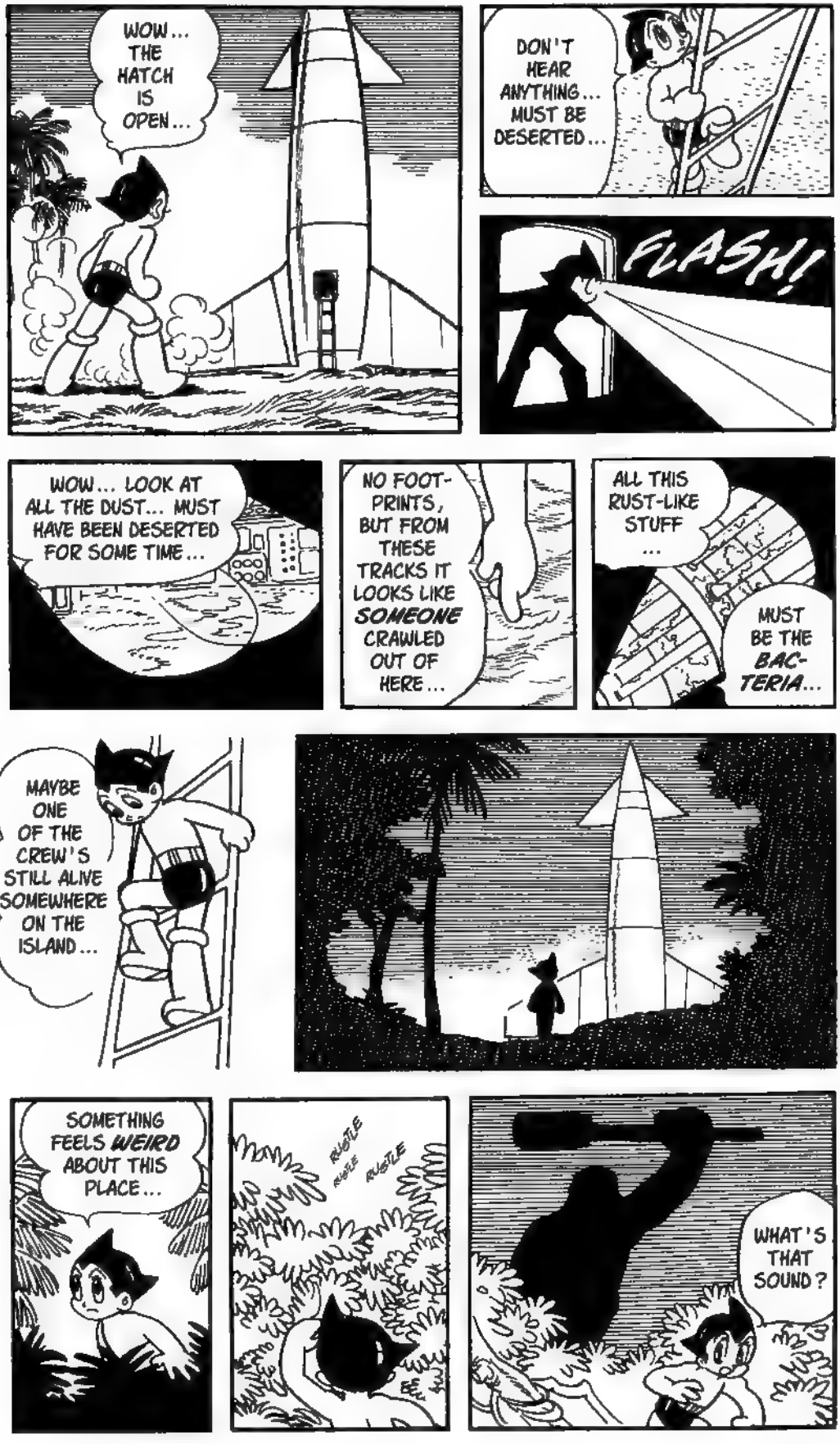
YOU MUST NOT LAND ON EARTH! YOU'LL SPREAD THE BACTERIA!
NO!
SO AGAINST OUR ORDERS, THE FOBO-STUR LANDED...
WE KNOW THE LOCATION. IT'S AN UNINHABITED ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC...
THIS IS A DIS-ASTER!
WE'VE GOTTA KILL THE BACTERIA. DROP AN H-BOMB ON IT!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SURVIVING CREW MEMBERS?
CAN'T YOU CONTACT THEM?
NO.
THEY'VE PROBABLY ALREADY LEFT THE SHIP.
DR. MOSS, IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING RIGHT AWAY, ALL EARTH'LL BE CONTAMINATED!
I'VE GOTTA INFORM MY COUNTRY'S NEWS AGENCY, AND GET VACCINATED!
BUT WHICH VACCINE?
WE'VE GOT TO SEND AN INVESTIGATOR TO THE ISLAND...
HUMANS WON'T DO, OF COURSE, SO WE'LL HAVE TO SEND A ROBOT.
SO THAT'S THE SITUATION, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU... YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE A ROBOT NAMED ASTRO BOY IS?
ER ... UM ...

I'VE HEARD HE'S THE MOST ADVANCED ROBOT IN ALL JAPAN... MAYBE WE CAN SEND HIM TO INVESTIGATE...
AS YOU KNOW, THERE AREN'T MANY ROBOTS THAT CAN HANDLE SUCH A COMPLEX TASK...
YOU THINK ASTRO BOY'S UP TO IT?
HARUMPH ...
TECHNICALLY, ASTRO BOY BELONGS TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...
ACTUALLY, OUR CIA DID A LITTLE INVESTI-GATING...
WE FOUND THAT RIGHT NOW HE BELONGS TO THE RINGMASTER AT THE ROBOT CIRCUS...
WE NEED TO GET HOLD OF HIM...
ONE OF THE CIA AGENTS IS RIGHT BEHIND YOU NOW, PROFESSOR...
HE'S THERE TO TAKE ASTROBOY TO THE ACCIDENT SITE.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU...
THE NAME'S GERRARD...
NOW, IF YOU COULD JUST TAKE ME TO THAT RINGMASTER'S PLACE...
I DON'T NEED A CIA ESCORT FOR THAT!
I'LL BRING ASTRO HERE MYSELF!!

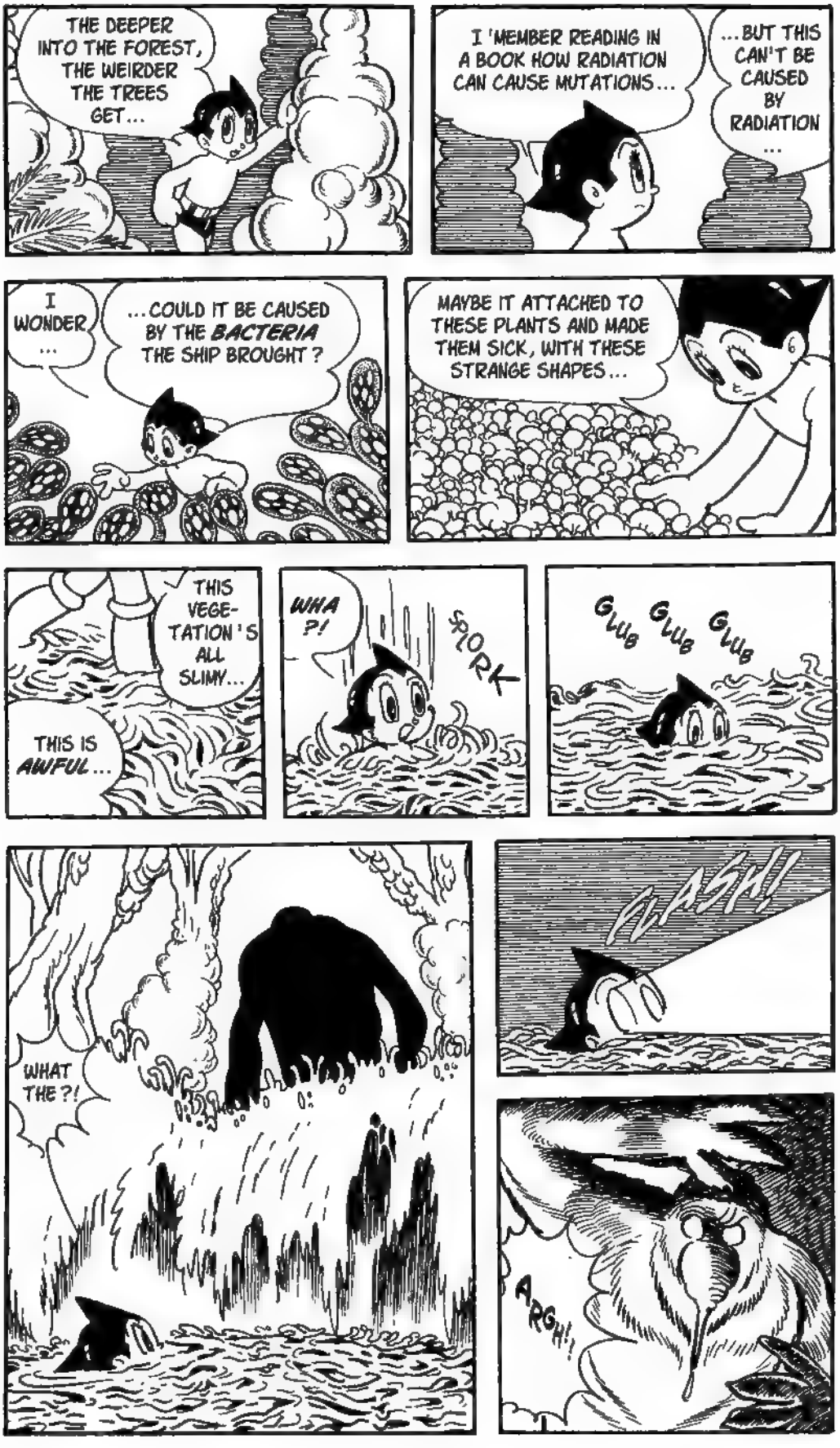
ZZZZZZZZZ
L
GNASH GNASH
ZZZZZZZ
SQUEAK
CREAK
CREAK
SQUEAK
CHIK
I'M GONNA GET YOU OUT OF HERE, ASTRO...
♪SNORT♭ ♪GNASH♭ ZZZZ ♪SNORT♭
I KNOW STEALING'S BAD, BUT NEGOTIATING WITH A GUY LIKE THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
ASTRO... ♪GRMBLE♭ ... CIRCUS ... ♪GRUMBLE♭... ♪SNORT♭
AHCHOOO
IS THAT OCHANOMIZU 'N ASTRO?
SHH...
GO BACK TO SLEEP... YOU'RE DREAM-ING!
MUST BE RIGHT... WHAT WOULD OCHANIMIZU BE DOING HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...?
ZZZZZZZ

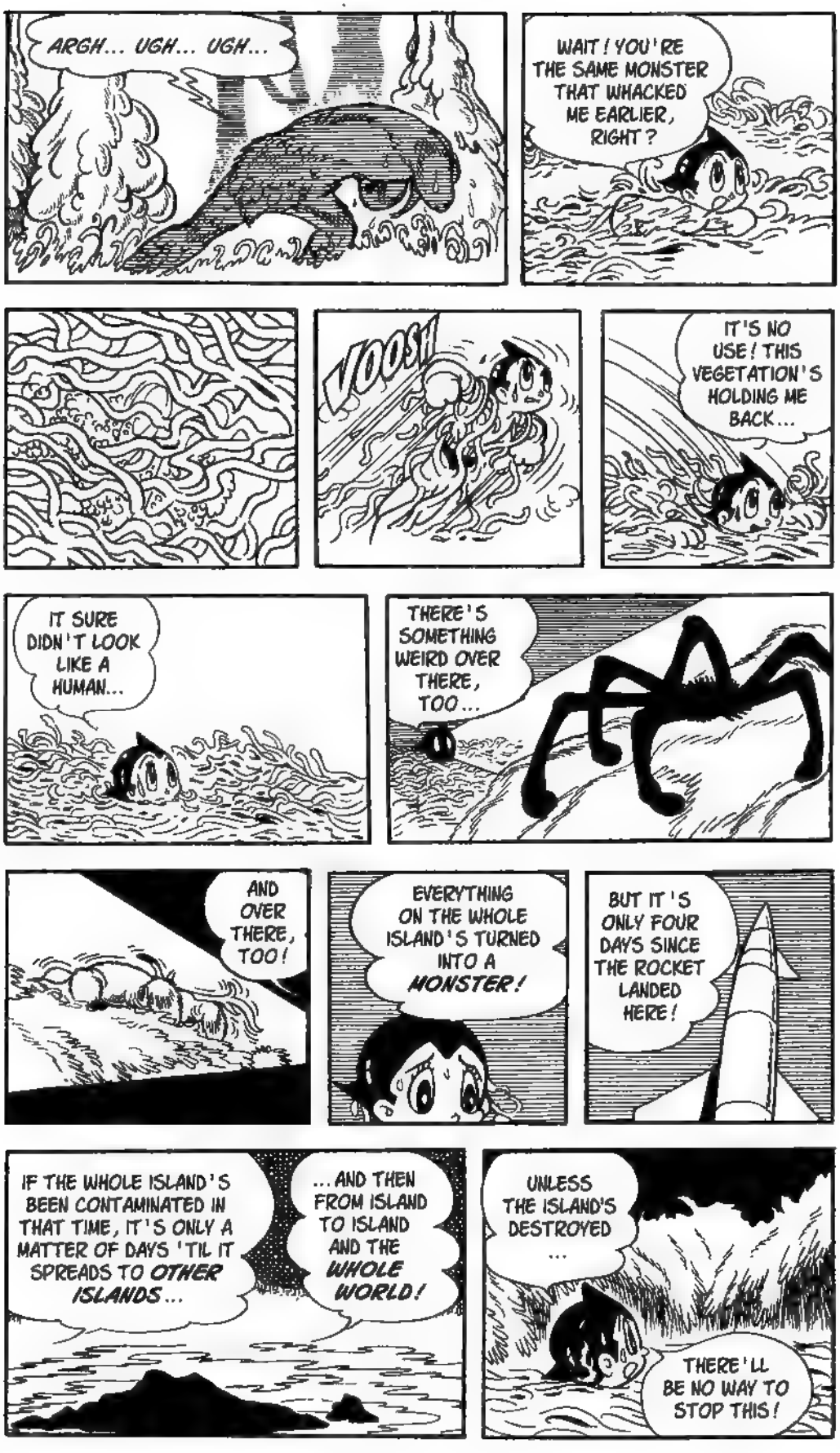

WELL DONE, OCHANOMIZU ...
SLAM
VROOM VROOM
HOW COME YOU'RE LEAVING IN SECRET?
BECAUSE I DON'T WANT THE JAPANESE JOURNALISTS TO KNOW, PROFESSOR...
IT WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD IF THE MEDIA MADE A BIG DEAL OUT OF OUR USING A JAPANESE ROBOT INSTEAD OF A U.S. ONE...
HERE WE ARE. THE AIR FORCE'S FAR EAST BASE.
SO YOU BROUGHT ASTRO BOY, EH?
THE TRANSPORT PLANE'S ALL READY...
NOT A MINUTE TO SPARE. WE'LL LEAVE RIGHT AWAY...
MY NAME'S OCHAN-OMIZU..
WE'RE INDEBTED TO YOU, PROFESSOR.
I WANT TO GO WITH ASTRO...
SORRY, THAT'S NOT ALLOWED...
VROOAAR

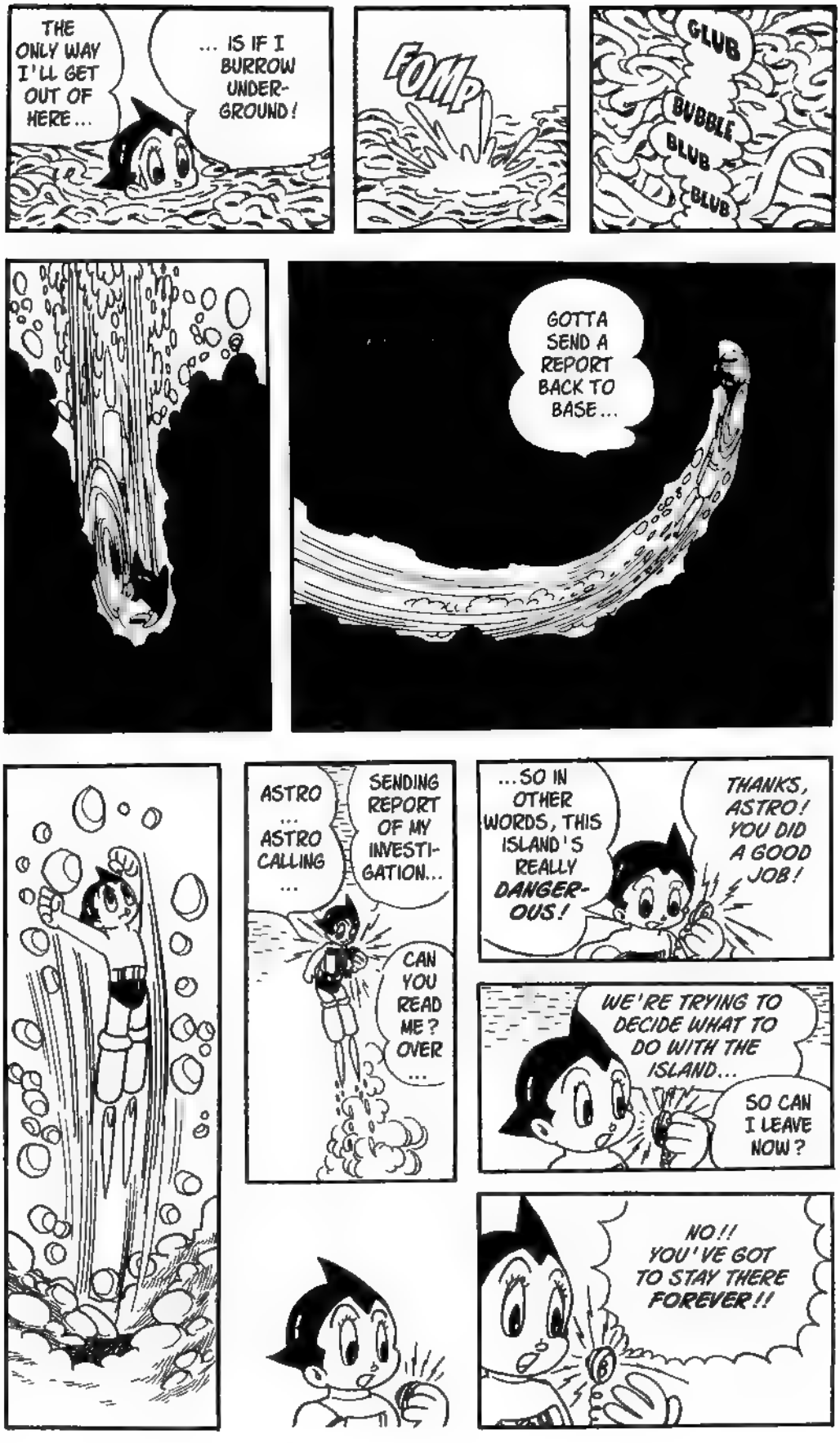
WE'LL ARRIVE AT THE ISLAND IN TWO HOURS...
TIME TO REFUEL ASTRO..
GREAT... HE'S TANKED UP NOW...
WHA?
I KNOW YOU'RE SURPRISED, ASTRO, BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING...
... SO THAT'S THE SITUATION. YOU'RE THE ONLY ROBOT WHO CAN PULL THIS OFF AND SAVE THE WORLD. WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.
SEND US THE CODED MESSAGE AS SOON AS YOU FINISH, AND WE'LL COME GET YOU...
READY? WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOUR SUCCESS
ONE... TWO... THREE...
LOOKS LIKE A ROCKET LANDED HERE...
MUST BE THE FOBO-STUR.


WOW... THE HATCH IS OPEN...
DON'T HEAR ANYTHING... MUST BE DESERTED...
FLASH!
WOW... LOOK AT ALL THE DUST... MUST HAVE BEEN DESERTED FOR SOME TIME...
NO FOOT-PRINTS, BUT FROM THESE TRACKS IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE CRAWLED OUT OF HERE...
ALL THIS RUST-LIKE STUFF ...
MUST BE THE BAC-TERIA...
MAYBE ONE OF THE CREW'S STILL ALIVE SOMEWHERE ON THE ISLAND...
SOMETHING FEELS WEIRD ABOUT THIS PLACE...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

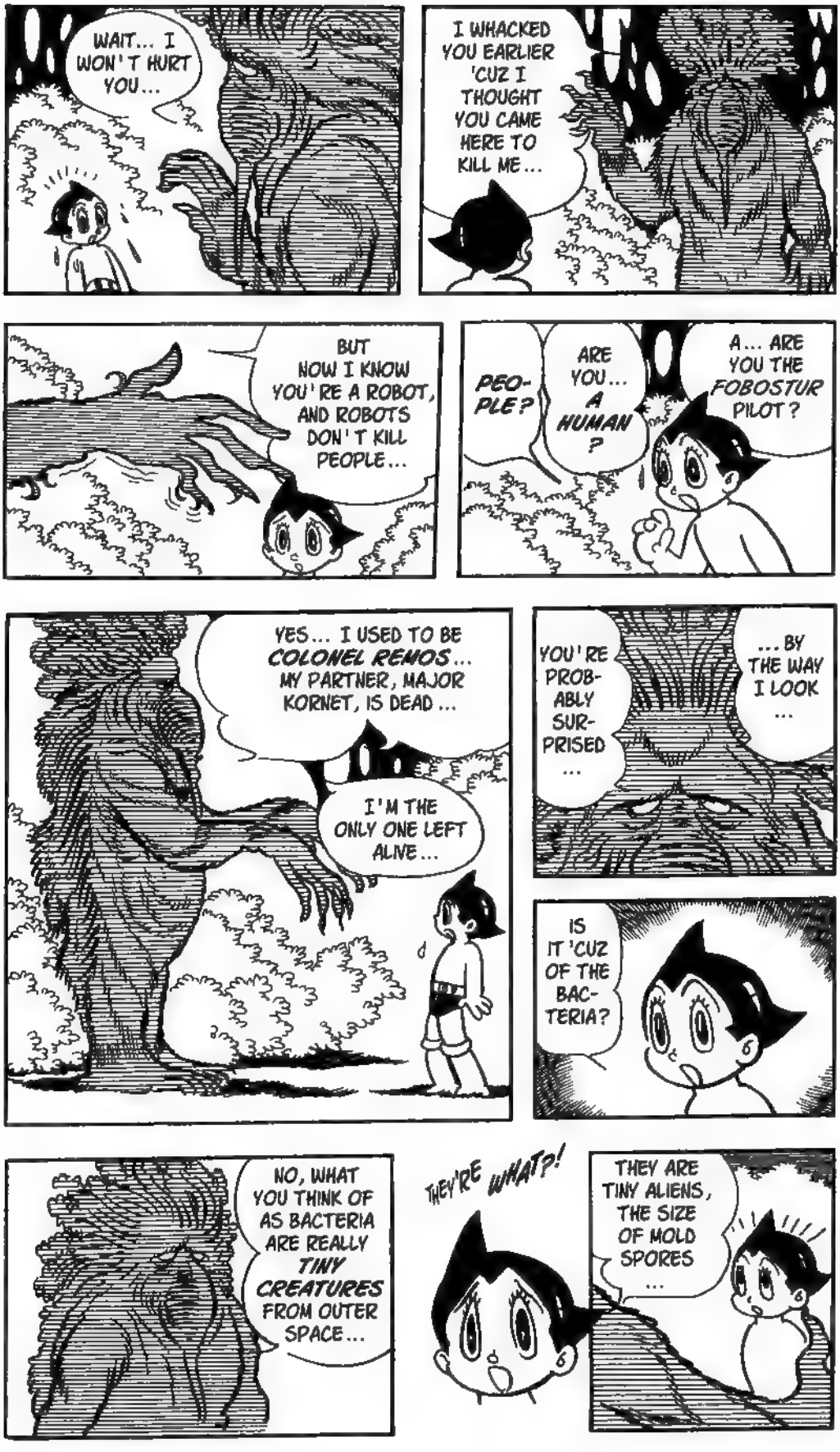
WHOMP
THUD
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
FWP
WAIT A SEC ...
WHAT WAS THAT ? IT SEEMED HUMAN, BUT NO HUMAN'S GOT *THAT* MUCH STRENGTH ..
I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN A BETTER LOOK AT HIM, BUT IT WAS SO SUDDEN, AND HE REALLY WHACKED ME ON THE HEAD ...
I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THESE PLANTS ... I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE ...

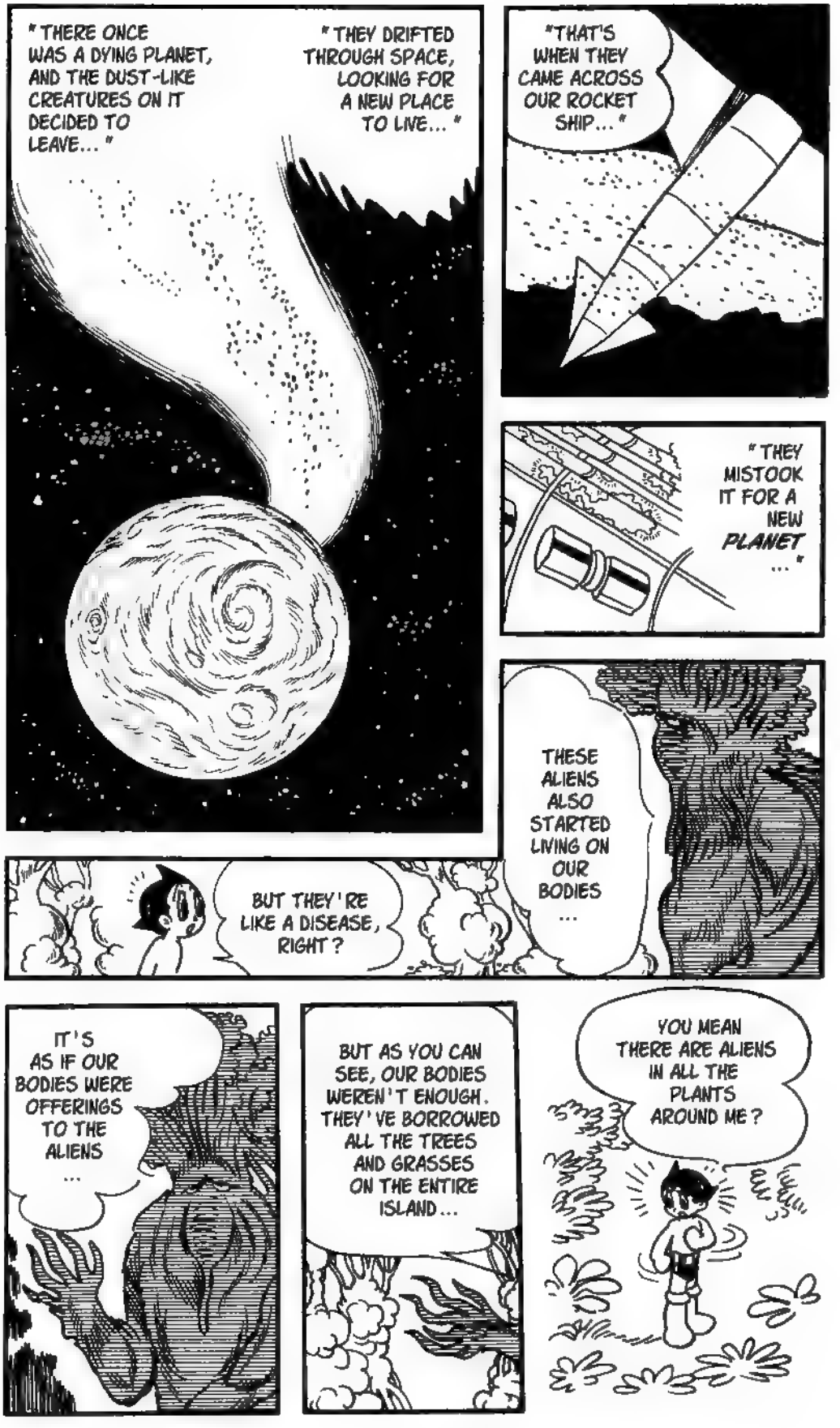

THE DEEPER INTO THE FOREST, THE WEIRDER THE TREES GET...
I 'MEMBER READING IN A BOOK HOW RADIATION CAN CAUSE MUTATIONS...
...BUT THIS CAN'T BE CAUSED BY RADIATION ...
I WONDER ...
...COULD IT BE CAUSED BY THE BACTERIA THE SHIP BROUGHT?
MAYBE IT ATTACHED TO THESE PLANTS AND MADE THEM SICK, WITH THESE STRANGE SHAPES...
THIS VEGE-TATION'S ALL SLIMY...
THIS IS AWFUL...
WHA P!
SPLORK
GLUB GLUB GLUB
WHAT THE?!
CLASH!!
ARGH!!


ARGH... UGH... UGH...
WAIT! YOU'RE THE SAME MONSTER THAT WHACKED ME EARLIER, RIGHT?
VOOSH
IT'S NO USE! THIS VEGETATION'S HOLDING ME BACK...
IT SURE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A HUMAN...
THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD OVER THERE, TOO...
AND OVER THERE, TOO!
EVERYTHING ON THE WHOLE ISLAND'S TURNED INTO A MONSTER!
BUT IT'S ONLY FOUR DAYS SINCE THE ROCKET LANDED HERE!
IF THE WHOLE ISLAND'S BEEN CONTAMINATED IN THAT TIME, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF DAYS 'TIL IT SPREADS TO OTHER ISLANDS...
...AND THEN FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND AND THE WHOLE WORLD!
UNLESS THE ISLAND'S DESTROYED ...
THERE'LL BE NO WAY TO STOP THIS!


THE ONLY WAY I'LL GET OUT OF HERE...
... IS IF I BURROW UNDER-GROUND!
FOMP
GLUB
BUBBLE
BLUB
BLUB
GOTTA SEND A REPORT BACK TO BASE...
ASTRO ... ASTRO CALLING ...
SENDING REPORT OF MY INVESTI-GATION...
CAN YOU READ ME? OVER ...
...SO IN OTHER WORDS, THIS ISLAND'S REALLY DANGER-OUS!
THANKS, ASTRO! YOU DID A GOOD JOB!
WE'RE TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THE ISLAND...
SO CAN I LEAVE NOW?
NO!! YOU'VE GOT TO STAY THERE FOREVER!!

YOUR BODY'S BEEN CONTAMINATED WITH THE BACTERIA! IT'S PROBABLY ALL OVER YOU!
IF YOU LEAVE THE ISLAND...
...YOU'LL SPREAD IT ALL OVER THE PLACE. WE'LL GET INFECTED, TOO!
YOU MUST NOT LEAVE!
YOU'VE HELPED US A LOT, ASTRO BOY...
BUT IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD! HANG IN THERE, AND I'LL CONTACT YOU LATER!
COULD YOU AT LEAST TELL PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU AND DR. TENMA ABOUT ME?
WILL DO, ASTRO BOY ... IF THERE'S ANY WAY TO DO SO, I'M SURE THEY'LL TRY TO HELP YOU OUT...

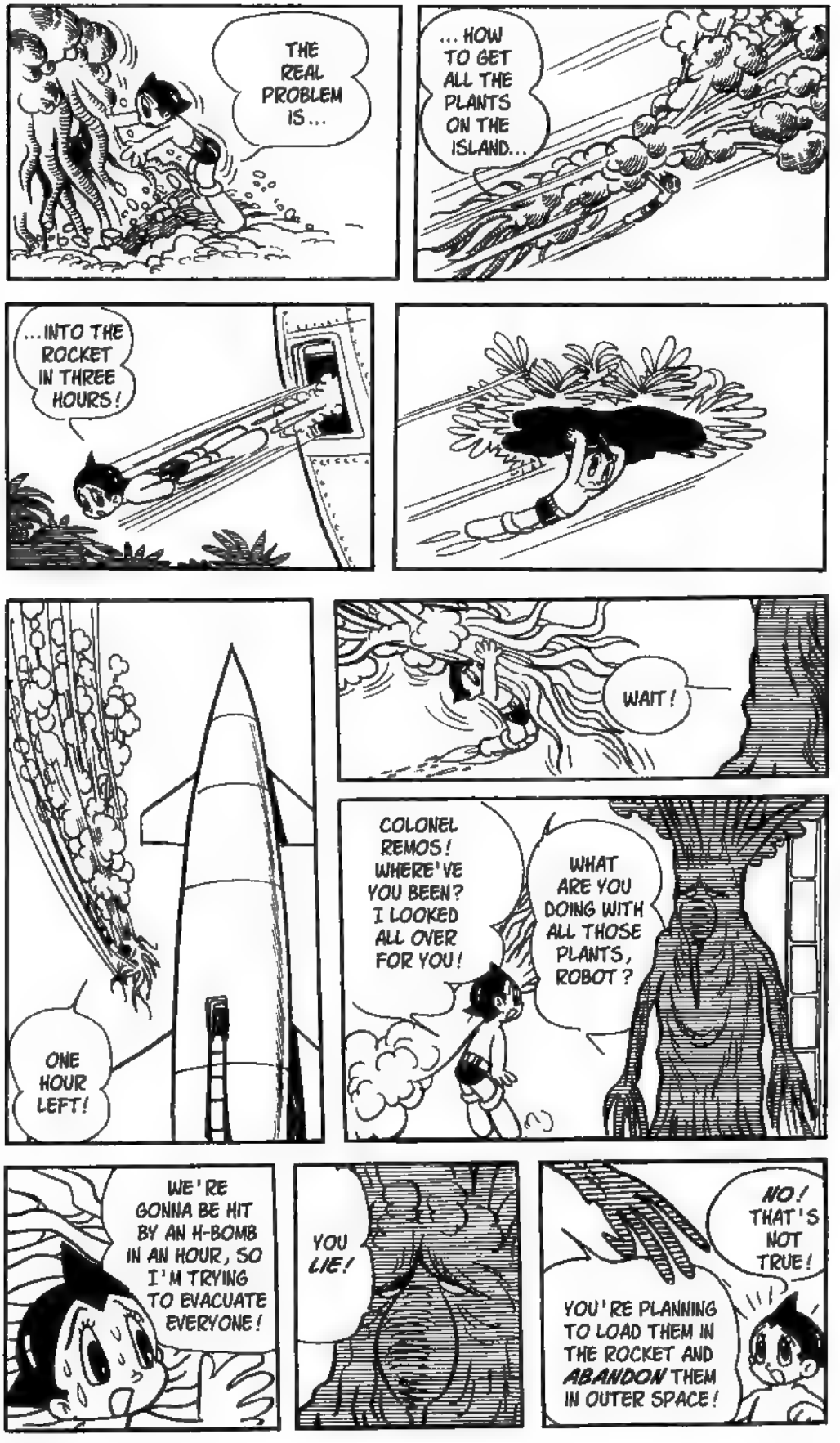

WAIT... I WON'T HURT YOU...
I WHACKED YOU EARLIER 'CUZ I THOUGHT YOU CAME HERE TO KILL ME...
BUT NOW I KNOW YOU'RE A ROBOT, AND ROBOTS DON'T KILL PEOPLE...
PEO-PLE?
ARE YOU... A HUMAN?
A... ARE YOU THE FOBOSTUR PILOT?
YES... I USED TO BE COLONEL REMOS... MY PARTNER, MAJOR KORNET, IS DEAD...
I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT ALIVE...
YOU'RE PROB-ABLY SUR-PRISED...
...BY THE WAY I LOOK...
IS IT 'CUZ OF THE BAC-TERIA?
NO, WHAT YOU THINK OF AS BACTERIA ARE REALLY TINY CREATURES FROM OUTER SPACE...
THEY'RE WHAT?!
THEY ARE TINY ALIENS, THE SIZE OF MOLD SPORES...


"THERE ONCE WAS A DYING PLANET, AND THE DUST-LIKE CREATURES ON IT DECIDED TO LEAVE..."
"THEY DRIFTED THROUGH SPACE, LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE TO LIVE..."
"THAT'S WHEN THEY CAME ACROSS OUR ROCKET SHIP..."
"THEY MISTOOK IT FOR A NEW PLANET ..."
THESE ALIENS ALSO STARTED LIVING ON OUR BODIES ...
BUT THEY'RE LIKE A DISEASE, RIGHT?
IT'S AS IF OUR BODIES WERE OFFERINGS TO THE ALIENS ...
BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR BODIES WEREN'T ENOUGH. THEY'VE BORROWED ALL THE TREES AND GRASSES ON THE ENTIRE ISLAND...
YOU MEAN THERE ARE ALIENS IN ALL THE PLANTS AROUND ME?

DON'T WORRY ...
THEY DON'T WANT ANYTHING ELSE. THEY'RE SATISFIED, AND THEY'LL NEVER LEAVE THIS ISLAND...
ARE YOU SURE?
YES, THEY ARE PEACEFUL ...
THEY WILL NEVER FIGHT WITH HUMANS ...
B... BUT WHY'D THEY KILL THE PILOT THEN?
THAT WAS A MISTAKE... THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY'D DONE...
THAT IS ALL I HAVE TO SAY. IF YOU RETURN TO YOUR COUNTRY, YOU MUST TELL THE SCIENTISTS THERE...
I WILL SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE HERE, WITH THE ALIENS...
....
ASTRO CALLING GERRARD ...
THANKS, ASTRO... BUT WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE REPORTS. I'M SORRY, BUT WE'RE GOING TO VAPORIZE THE ISLAND IN THREE HOURS. YOU'LL HAVE TO SHARE ITS FATE...

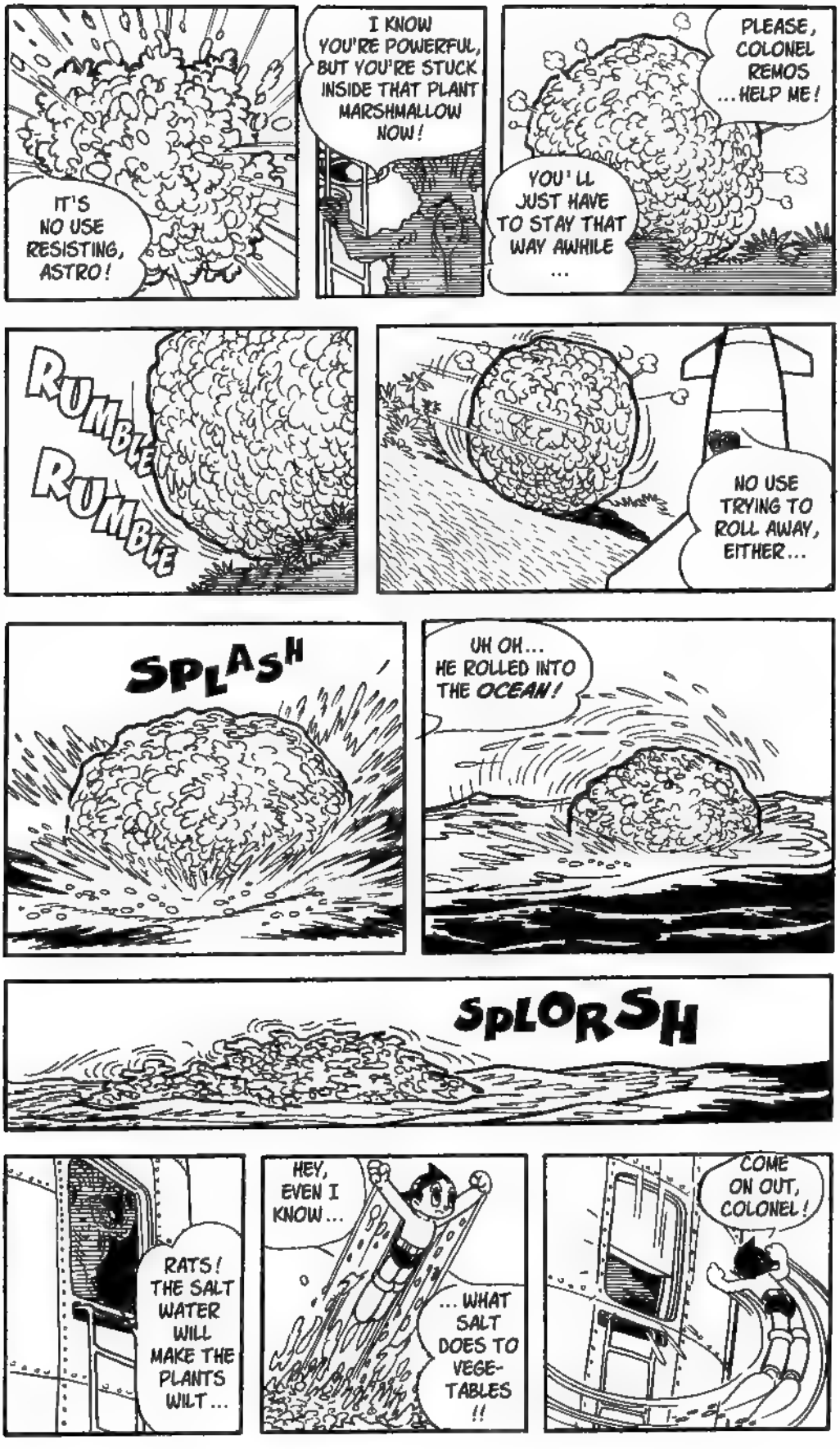
THE U.S.DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO LAUNCH AN INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE AT THE ISLAND!
B...BUT THAT'S CRAZY!
SORRY, ASTRO... IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP IT.
YOU'VE DONE A WONDERFUL JOB, ASTRO.
... BUT WE CAN'T LET YOU LIVE, CONTAMINATED WITH ALL THAT BACTERIA ...
GOODBYE, ASTRO... WE NOW AWAIT THE PRESIDENT'S LAUNCH COMMAND ...
Click
W-WAIT!
ONLY THREE HOURS!!
I'D BETTER TELL COLONEL REMOS!
COLONEL REMOS!
WONDER WHERE HE'S HIDING?!
IF YOU ALIENS CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING, LISTEN ... THEY'RE TARGETING THIS ISLAND WITH AN H-BOMB! YOU'VE GOT TO ESCAPE!
READY FOR LAUNCH! STARTING TEN SECOND COUNTDOWN!

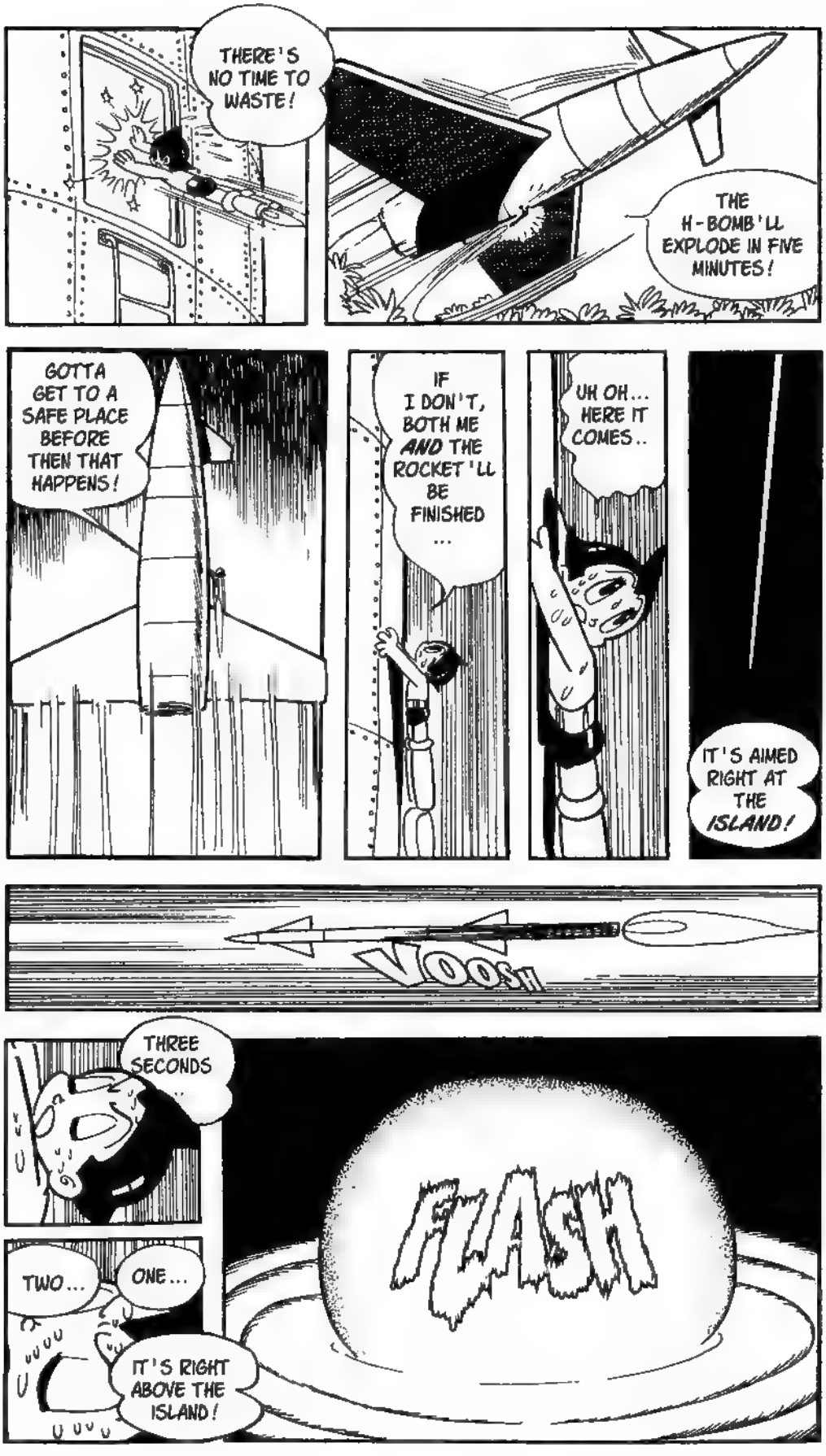
TEN SECONDS AND COUNTING ... NINE SECONDS ... EIGHT ...
THREE ... TWO ... ONE ...
KOOHAR
KOOHAR
IF THIS WERE A WAR, WE'D REALLY BE IN TROUBLE NOW ...
ALL SYSTEMS A-OKAY ...
HAR! LET'S SEE IF ANY SPACE BACTERIA CAN SURVIVE THIS!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? IF YOU STAY HERE, THE H-BOMB'LL VAPORIZE YOU ALL ...
I KNOW ... THE ROCKET!
I CAN PUT YOU ALL IN THE ROCKET AND TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE!
IT'S MOV-ING TIME!
'DUNNO IF THEY'LL ALL FIT IN THERE, BUT I'LL DO MY BEST...

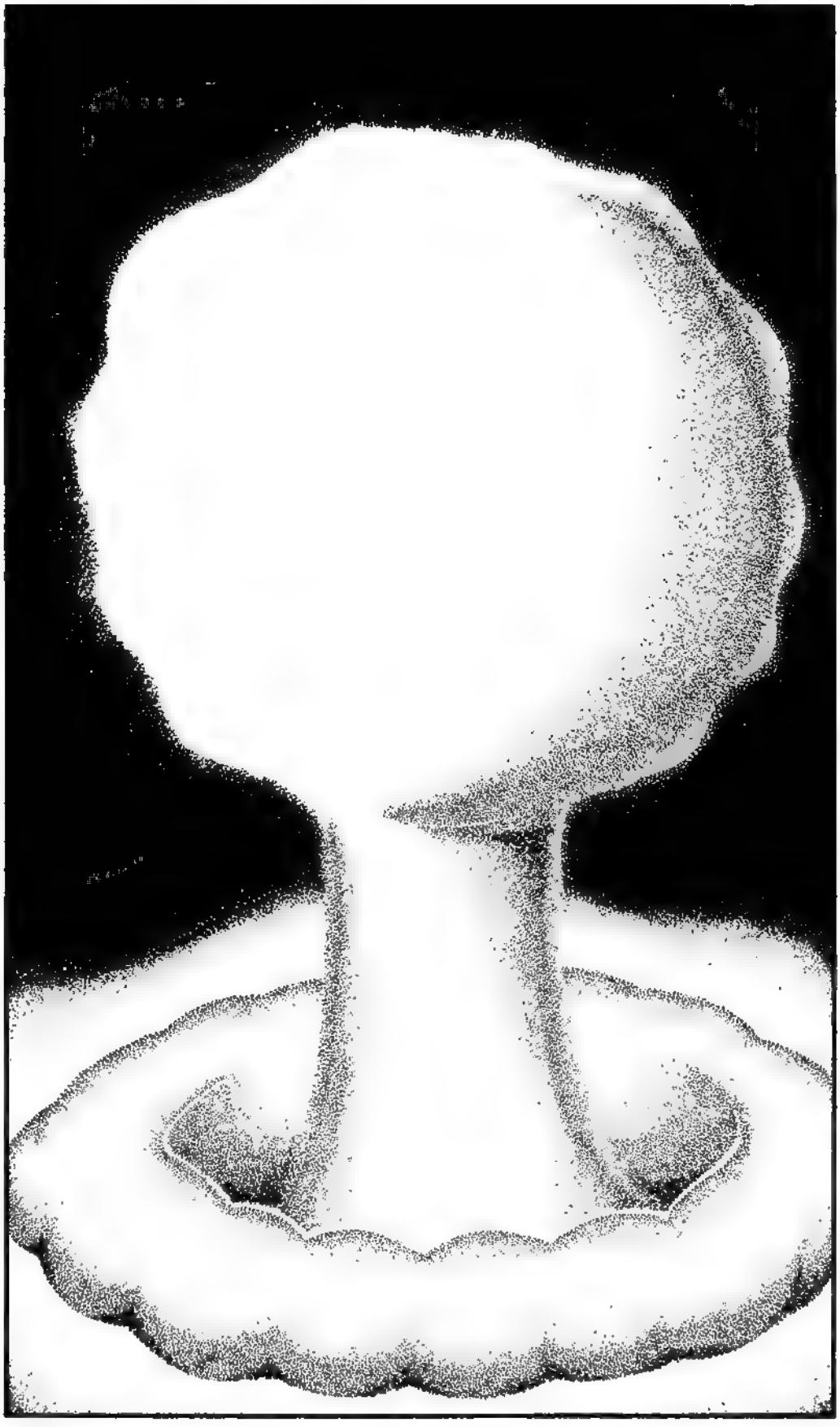

THE REAL PROBLEM IS...
... HOW TO GET ALL THE PLANTS ON THE ISLAND...
...INTO THE ROCKET IN THREE HOURS!
ONE HOUR LEFT!
WAIT!
COLONEL REMOS! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH ALL THOSE PLANTS, ROBOT?
WE'RE GONNA BE HIT BY AN H-BOMB IN AN HOUR, SO I'M TRYING TO EVACUATE EVERYONE!
YOU LIE!
NO! THAT'S NOT TRUE!
YOU'RE PLANNING TO LOAD THEM IN THE ROCKET AND ABANDON THEM IN OUTER SPACE!

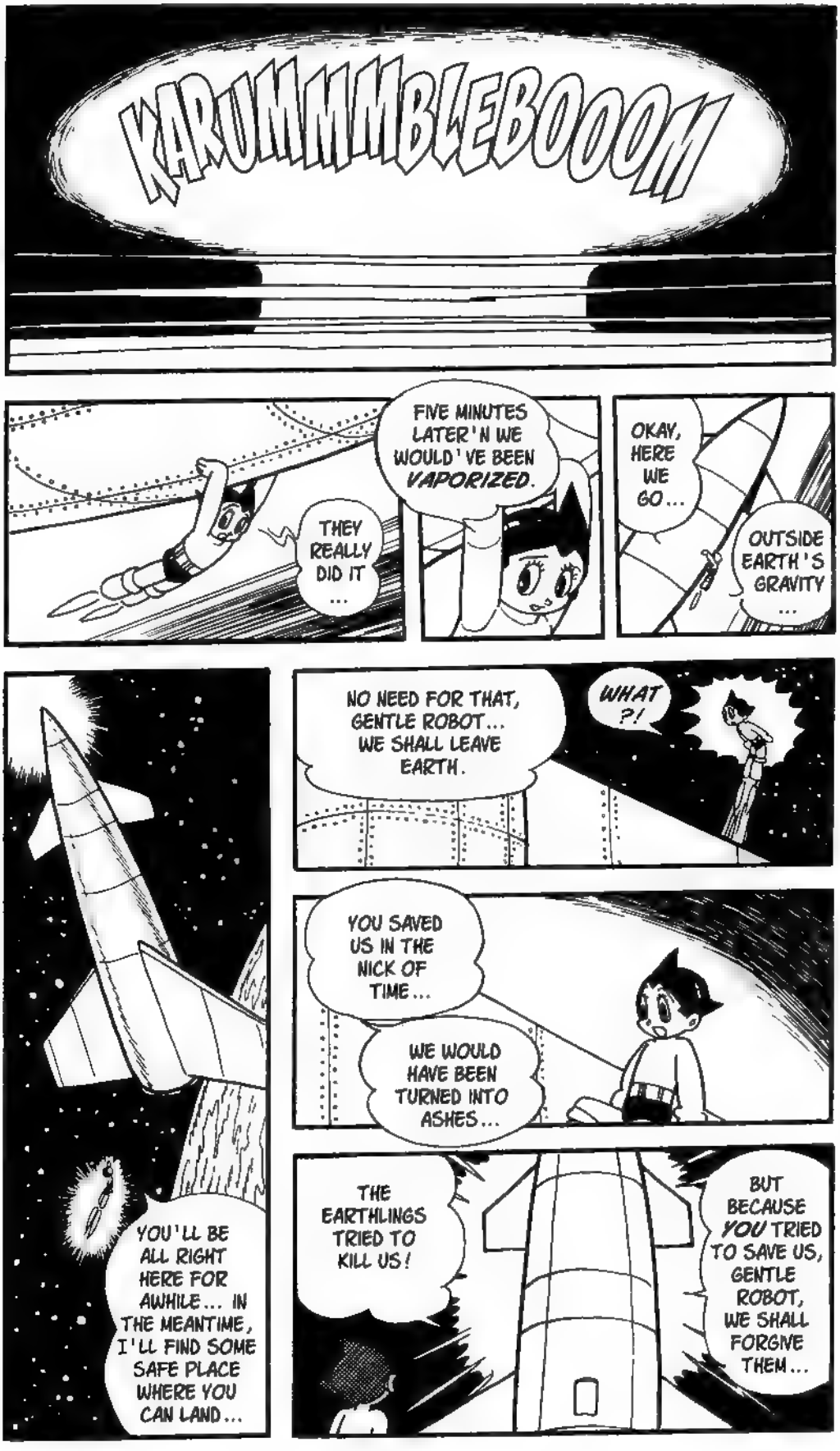
THE WHOLE ISLAND'S GONNA BLOW UP IN AN HOUR!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
YOU MUST UNLOAD THESE CREATURES FROM THE SHIP NOW!
BUT I'M NOT LYING! IT'S TRUE!
IF YOU REFUSE, I HAVE NO CHOICE ...
UNLOAD THEM, OR ELSE!
THIS IS A MAGNO-RAY GUN, ROBOT! IT CAN MAKE ALL THE INSTRUMENTS IN YOUR BODY GO HAYWIRE...
B... BUT IF YOU DO THAT, IT'LL BE TOO LATE!
YIKES!
YOU ASKED FOR IT...
BVOOSH
AIEEE!

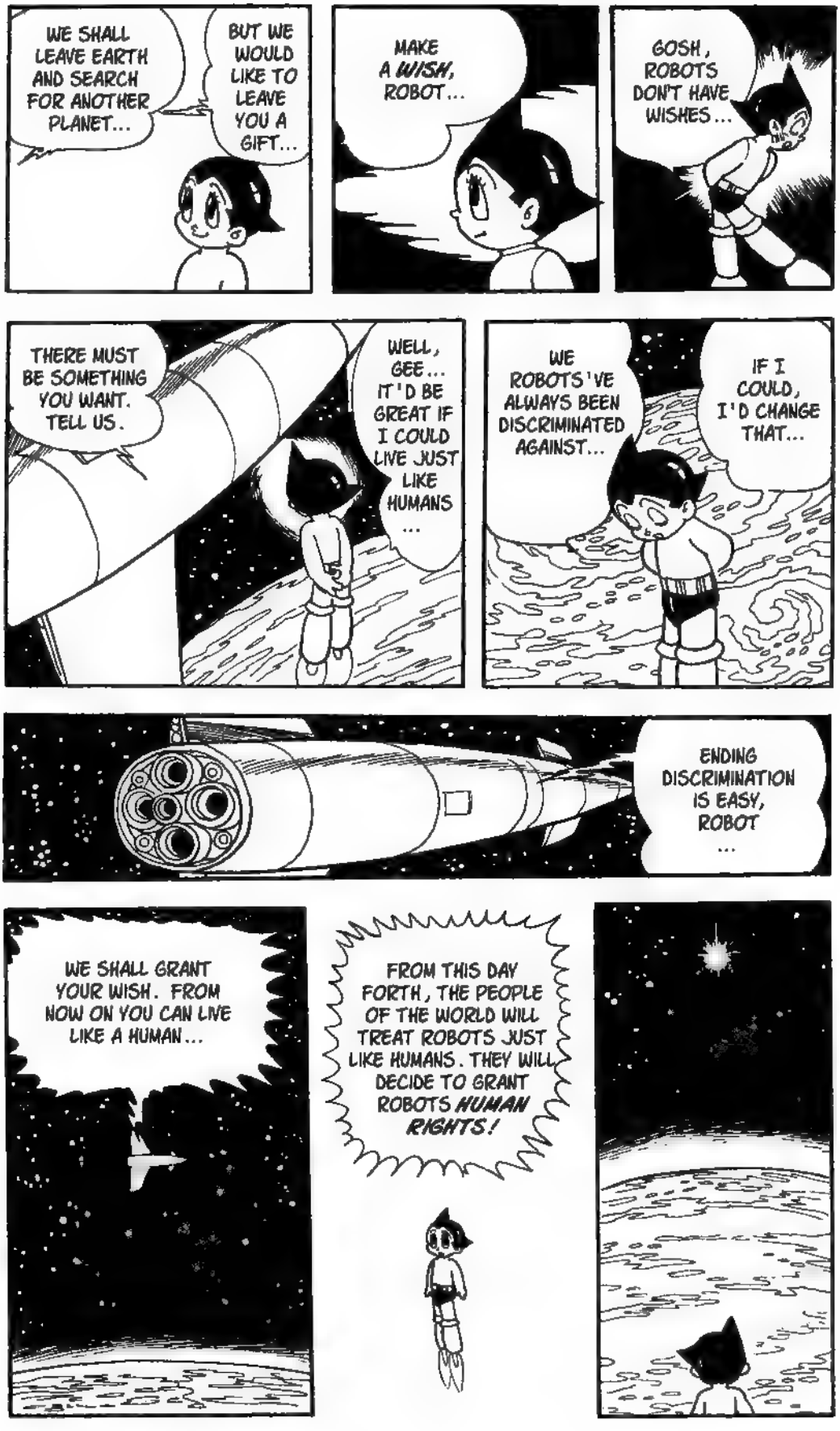
ARGHHH!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
PEEEP
PEEP PEEP
PIP PIP
PEEEP
?
UH OH!
ON MY COMMAND, ROBOT, ALL THE PLANTS AND SEEDS AND FUNGI WILL ATTACH TO YOU!
PLEASE! STOP!!

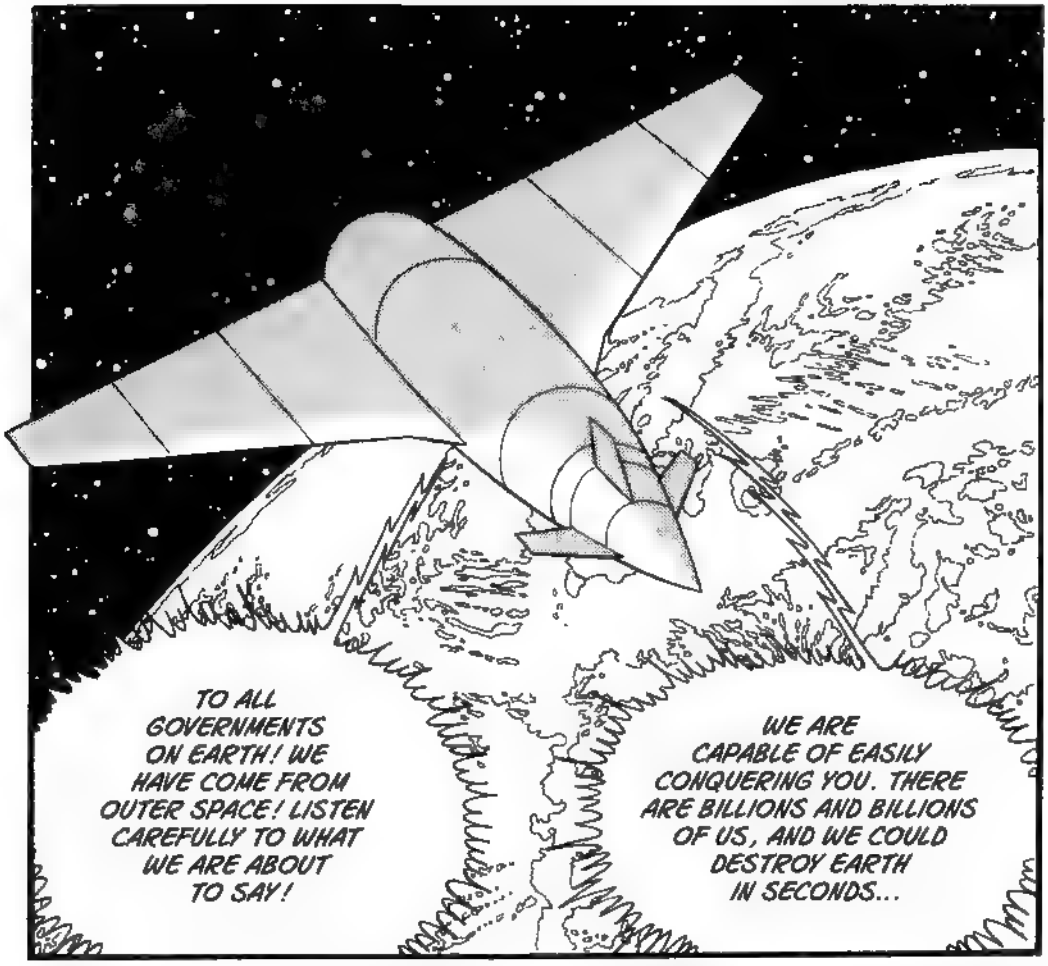

IT'S NO USE RESISTING, ASTRO!
I KNOW YOU'RE POWERFUL, BUT YOU'RE STUCK INSIDE THAT PLANT MARSHMALLOW NOW!
PLEASE, COLONEL REMOS ...HELP ME!
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO STAY THAT WAY AWHILE ...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
NO USE TRYING TO ROLL AWAY, EITHER...
SPLASH
UH OH... HE ROLLED INTO THE OCEAN!
SPLORSH
RATS! THE SALT WATER WILL MAKE THE PLANTS WILT...
HEY, EVEN I KNOW...
...WHAT SALT DOES TO VEGE-TABLES !!
COME ON OUT, COLONEL!


THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE!
THE H-BOMB'LL EXPLODE IN FIVE MINUTES!
GOTTA GET TO A SAFE PLACE BEFORE THEN THAT HAPPENS!
IF I DON'T, BOTH ME AND THE ROCKET'LL BE FINISHED ...
UH OH... HERE IT COMES..
IT'S AIMED RIGHT AT THE ISLAND!
VOOSH
THREE SECONDS ..
TWO...
ONE...
IT'S RIGHT ABOVE THE ISLAND!
FLASH

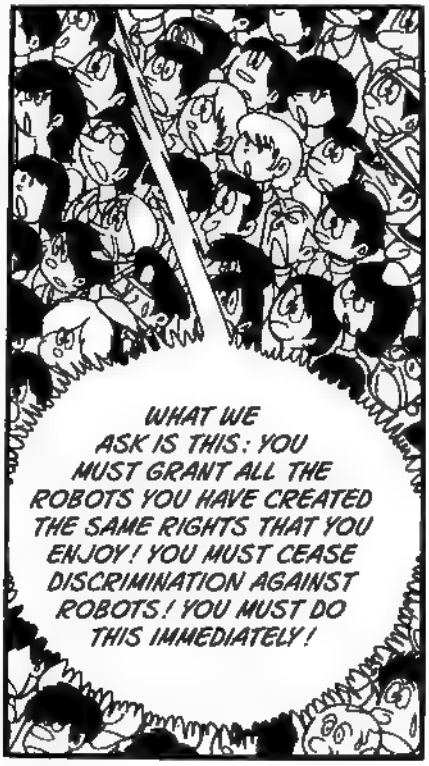



KARUMMMBLEBOOOM!
THEY REALLY DID IT ...
FIVE MINUTES LATER'N WE WOULD'VE BEEN VAPORIZED.
OKAY, HERE WE GO...
OUTSIDE EARTH'S GRAVITY ...
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT HERE FOR AWHILE... IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL FIND SOME SAFE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN LAND...
NO NEED FOR THAT, GENTLE ROBOT... WE SHALL LEAVE EARTH.
WHAT?!
YOU SAVED US IN THE NICK OF TIME...
WE WOULD HAVE BEEN TURNED INTO ASHES...
THE EARTHLINGS TRIED TO KILL US!
BUT BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO SAVE US, GENTLE ROBOT, WE SHALL FORGIVE THEM...


WE SHALL LEAVE EARTH AND SEARCH FOR ANOTHER PLANET...
BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU A GIFT...
MAKE A WISH, ROBOT...
GOSH, ROBOTS DON'T HAVE WISHES...
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU WANT. TELL US.
WELL, GEE... IT'D BE GREAT IF I COULD LIVE JUST LIKE HUMANS ...
WE ROBOTS'VE ALWAYS BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST...
IF I COULD, I'D CHANGE THAT...
ENDING DISCRIMINATION IS EASY, ROBOT ...
WE SHALL GRANT YOUR WISH. FROM NOW ON YOU CAN LIVE LIKE A HUMAN...
FROM THIS DAY FORTH, THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WILL TREAT ROBOTS JUST LIKE HUMANS. THEY WILL DECIDE TO GRANT ROBOTS HUMAN RIGHTS!


TO ALL GOVERNMENTS ON EARTH! WE HAVE COME FROM OUTER SPACE! LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO SAY!
WE ARE CAPABLE OF EASILY CONQUERING YOU. THERE ARE BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF US, AND WE COULD DESTROY EARTH IN SECONDS...

IN EXCHANGE FOR SPARING YOU, WE ASK ONLY ONE THING! IF HUMANS ARE BEINGS WORTHY OF OUR RESPECT, YOU WILL DO THIS, AND WE WILL THEN LEAVE YOU IN PEACE.


WHAT WE ASK IS THIS: YOU MUST GRANT ALL THE ROBOTS YOU HAVE CREATED THE SAME RIGHTS THAT YOU ENJOY! YOU MUST CEASE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ROBOTS! YOU MUST DO THIS IMMEDIATELY!

A DECLARATION OF ROBOT RIGHTS

PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD HEARD THE ALIENS' BROADCAST ON RADIO AND TELEVISION...
IT WAS THE ULTIMATE *SHOCK*...
... AND IT CAUSED WIDE-SPREAD PANIC...
BUT FOR ROBOTS, IT WAS THE VOICE OF *SALVATION!!*
SOME HUMANS SUDDENLY STARTED *PAMPERING* ROBOTS...
TIME FOR A REST NOW...
OTHERS BEGAN TO *BOYCOTT* ROBOTS...
....
WE'RE NOT GONNA LISTEN TO ANY VOICE FROM OUTER SPACE!!
HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ROBOTS!
HENCE-FORTH, ROBOTS SHALL BE GRANTED EQUALITY WITH HUMANS...
IN SOME NATIONS, LEADERS *PONDERED* WHAT TO DO...
IN OTHERS, ROBOTS WERE IMMEDIATELY *LIBERATED*...

LOOKS LIKE AN AIRPORT OVER THERE. I'LL ASK THEM TO CONTACT JAPAN...
UM, I'D LIKE TO MAKE A CALL TO JAPAN...
WELL, FEEL FREE TO USE OUR PHONE, MR. ROBOT, SIR...
YOU CAN MAKE CALLS OVERSEAS WITH IT...
ENJOY...
WOW, THAT WAS WEIRD ...
HE'S WAS WAY TOO POLITE ...
TOKYO, JAPAN PLEASE ...
HELLO? PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU, PLEASE...
UM... I'M A ROBOT...
YESSIR, MR. ROBOT... CONNECTING YOU RIGHT AWAY, SIR! GO AHEAD ...
SSSS
SSSSS
SSSSS
WOW... WONDER WHY EVERYONE'S SO NICE...
UM, YOU'VE GOT SOME DUST ON YOU, SIR ...
ACK ...!

ASTRO!
THAT REALLY YOU?
IT'S ME ALL RIGHT. I'M AT SOME COUNTRY'S AIRPORT.
EVERYONE'S AWFULLY NICE TO ROBOTS HERE...
IN FACT THEY'RE SO NICE ...
... IT SEEMS KINDA WEIRD.
HA HA... ASTRO...
... THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT...
YOU'LL BE EVEN MORE SURPRISED WHEN YOU COME BACK TO JAPAN... THEY PASSED A ROBOT LAW HERE!
AS LONG AS ROBOTS OBEY THE LAW, THEY'LL NOW BE TREATED JUST LIKE HUMANS!
SO EVIL HUMANS WON'T HARASS ROBOTS ANYMORE!
REALLY? WHAT HAPPENED ?!
THERE WAS A BROADCAST BY ALIENS...
IT WAS HUGE! ALL 'ROUND THE WORLD!
HAVE SOMEONE REFUEL YOU AT THE AIRPORT AND COME HOME, ASTRO!
YESSIR!
WHAT THE --?!

MR. GERRARD! FROM THE CIA! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN BLOWN UP WITH THE ISLAND BY THE H-BOMB!
WHY'D YOU RUN AWAY?
I DIDN'T RUN AWAY!
YOU'VE GOT BACTERIA ALL OVER YOU!
YOU'RE TOO DANGEROUS TO LET LIVE!
WAIT! LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!
IT'S TOO LATE ... IT'S CURTAINS FOR YOU...
FLASH
WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S TOO LATE?!
WHAP
ACK! PUT ME DOWN!
ROBOTS HAVE RIGHTS, TOO!

HAAALP!
YOU HUMANS'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO WHAT YOU WANT TO WITH ROBOTS...
BUT THOSE DAYS ARE OVER NOW!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DESTROY ME WITHOUT LISTENING TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!
CRUNCH!
SO HERE'S THE DEAL!
THERE AREN'T ANY BACTERIA ON ME!
HERE, I'LL SHOW YOU...
FIRST WE GET THIS PUPPY TO LICK ME...
SEE? HE'S NOT GETTING SICK...
HUMANS AND DOGS ARE LOTS MORE CONTAMINATED THAN ROBOTS ARE!

WHA?!! A-ASTRO'S GONE!! HE ESCAPED! HE'S BEEN STOLEN!
I...I KNOW I PUT HIM IN THE L-L-LOCKER!
GET ME THE POLICE!! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
I'M BACK, MR. RING-MASTER!
SO YOU WEREN'T STOLEN! YOU RAN AWAY!
WHY YOU... YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ME BEING INJURED!!
RELAX, I'M BACK, RIGHT?
YOU GIVING ME CHEEK, ROBOT?
I'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO TALK LIKE THAT TO YOUR MASTER!
THAT KIND OF TALK'S OUT OF LINE NOW, HAMEGG...
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!
ASTRO BELONGS TO ME! THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
"BELONGS TO ME"?! THOSE DAYS ARE GONE, HAMEGG... HE'S NEITHER PROPERTY NOR SLAVE. HE'S GOT RIGHTS NOW, JUST LIKE HUMANS!
WHAT?!

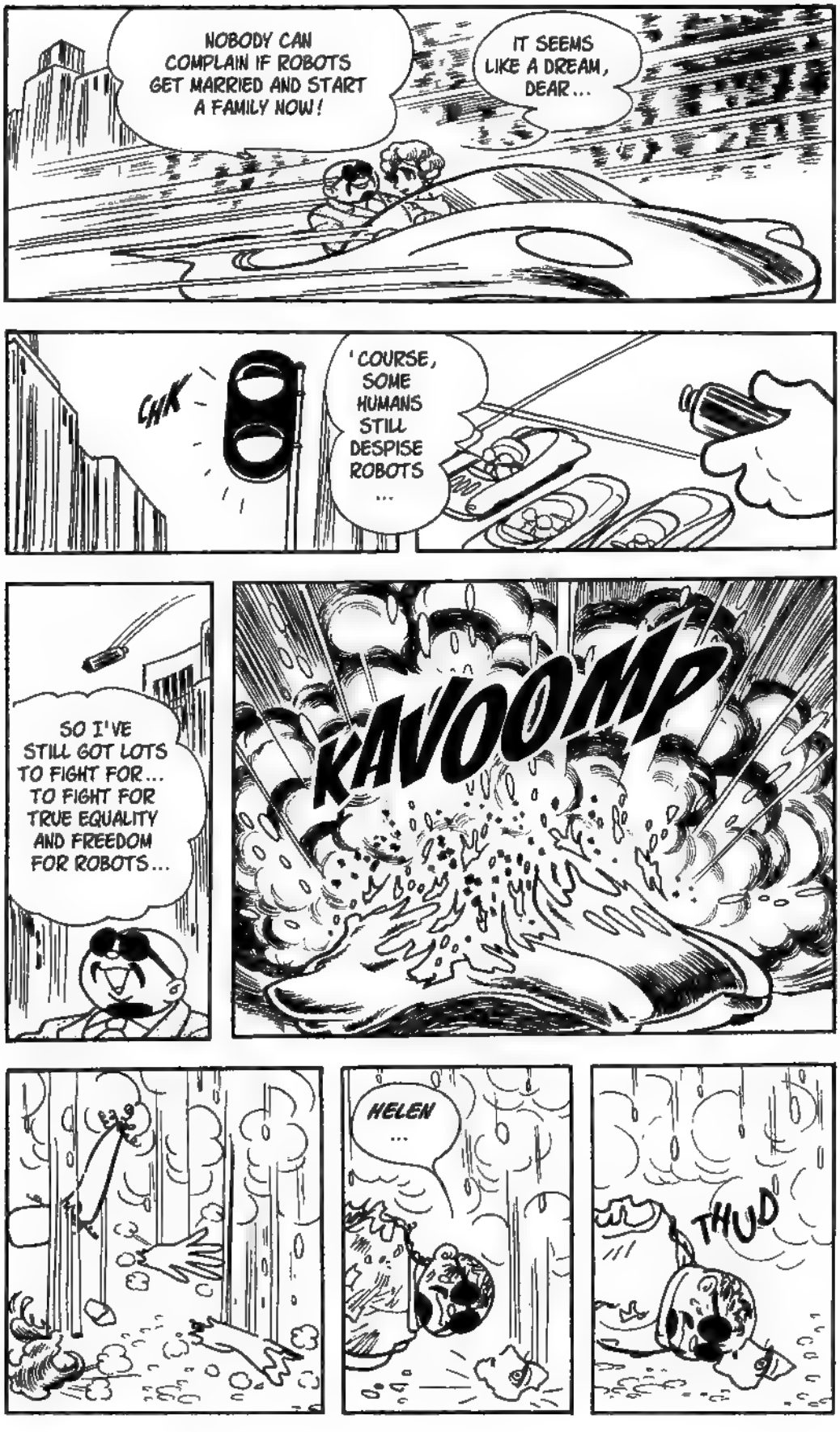
THE NEW ROBOT LAW JUST PASSED YESTERDAY. ROBOTS CAN NOW LIVE LIKE HUMANS!
B-BUT THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!
SEE? IT'S ON THE NEWS RIGHT NOW!
I HEREBY OFFIC-IALLY PROCLAIM THE ROBOT LAW TO BE IN EFFECT...
ARTICLE 1 OF THE ROBOT LAW: "ROBOTS WERE CREATED TO MAKE HUMANS HAPPY"...
ARTICLE 2: "IN FULFILLING THE ABOVE, ALL ROBOTS SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN FREEDOM AND EQUALITY."
YAY
YAY
HOORAY!
SO YOU SEE, THE WORLD CHANGED WHILE YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL, HAMEGG...
BLAST YOU! YOU'VE STOLEN EVERYTHING FROM ME!
LET'S GO, ASTRO...

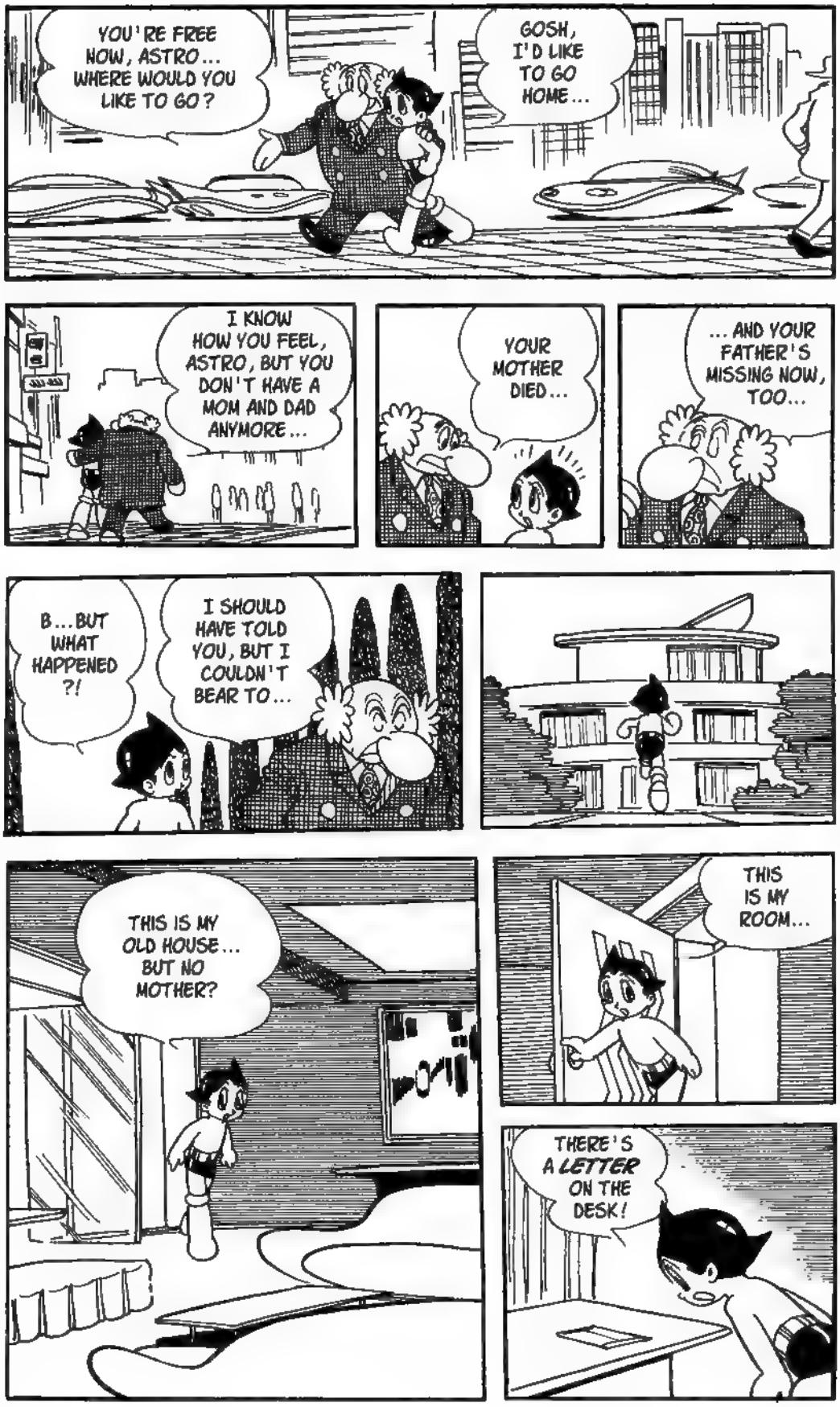
WE HAVE JUST HEARD A HISTORIC ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE...
THERE HAS BEEN A DECLARATION OF ROBOT RIGHTS...
"PRESIDENT ROBER READ THE DECLARATION, WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: ROBOTS ARE NEITHER INFERIOR NOR SUPERIOR TO HUMANS. THEY SHALL HENCEFORTH POSSESS ALL THE SAME RIGHTS AS HUMANS."
FIN-ALLY...
AFTER TWENTY YEARS...
...MY DEAR WIFE...
THE TIME HAS COME ...

DEAR HELEN...
IT'S FINALLY TIME FOR ME TO BECOME A ROBOT...
FROM THE NECK DOWN, EVERYTHING ABOUT ME IS ALREADY A MACHINE...
TWENTY YEARS AGO, MY HEART WAS REPLACED WITH AN ARTIFICIAL ONE...
... THEN MY STOMACH AND MY LUNGS...
... MY LEGS, AND MY HANDS...
TWO DECADES HAVE PASSED...
AND BEFORE I KNOW IT...
ONLY MY HEAD IS HUMAN...
BELOVED HELEN ...
ONCE I REPLACE THIS HEAD, I SHALL BE A TRUE ROBOT... BUT ALL I EVER WANTED TO DO WAS TO LIVE HAPPILY WITH YOU...
BECAUSE YOU, TOO, ARE A ROBOT...
BELOVED WIFE... THE DAY HAS FINALLY COME WHEN I CAN JOIN YOU...

"IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT WHEN I MET YOU..."
"BUT WHEN I INVITED YOU TO JOIN ME FOR DINNER, YOU DIDN'T EAT..."
YOU MEAN YOU'RE A ROBOT?!
I'M TRYING, BUT I CAN'T FORGET YOU...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH FALLING IN LOVE WITH A ROBOT, ANYWAY...?
I'M GOING TO MARRY YOU, HELEN!
"I BORROWED YOU, AND TOOK YOU HOME WITH ME..."
"I PROPOSED TO YOU, BUT YOU REFUSED. YOU SAID HUMANS AND ROBOTS CAN'T MARRY!"
"IT'S TRUE, NO CHURCH WOULD HAVE US..."
"EVERYONE SAID ROBOTS WERE SLAVES..."
THEY ALL SAID SLAVES CAN'T MARRY THEIR MASTERS!
AND EVER SINCE THEN I'VE FOUGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ROBOTS!
HELEN, I DISCONNECTED YOUR ENERGY...
I REMOVED YOUR IMPORTANT COMPONENTS SO THEY WOULDN'T RUST...
AND I SAFELY STORED YOU...

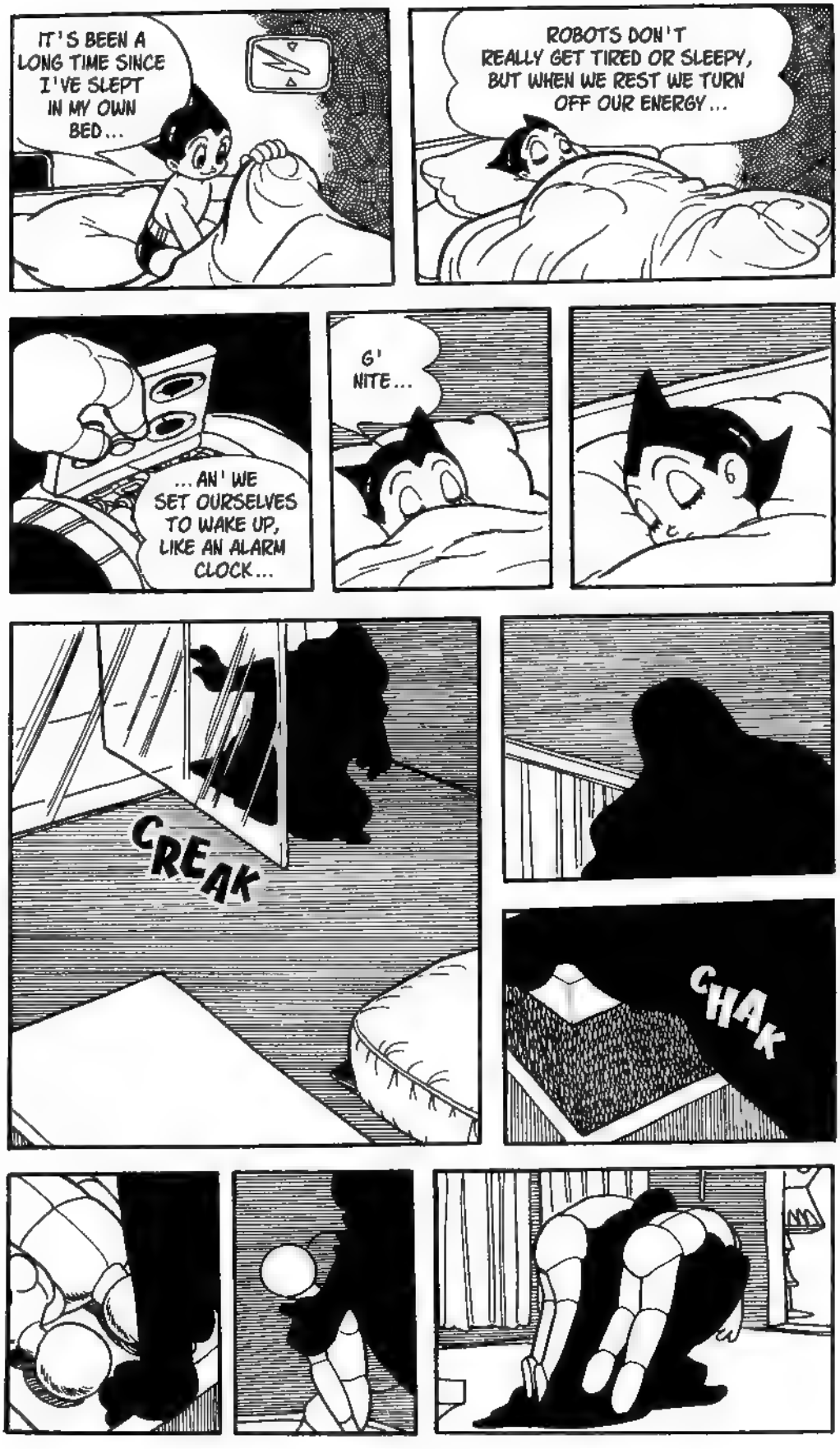
HERE...
THIS IS WHERE I PUT EVERY-THING...
THE HELEN I KNOW AND LOVE...
YOUR ELECTRO-BRAIN, YOUR HAIR, AND YOUR VOICE BOX...
AND NOW IT'S TIME TO RESTORE YOUR ENERGY...
YOU'VE COME BACK TO *LIFE*, HELEN!
HELLO, DEAR!
DEAREST HELEN... I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU WHILE I WAS ALIVE... I SWORE I'D NEVER BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE IF I COULDN'T MARRY YOU...
BUT GUESS WHAT? ROBOTS NOW HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS WITH HUMANS!
REALLY?
IT'S TIME TO GET DRESSED! WE'LL GO TO CHURCH, GET MARRIED, AND LIVE HAPPILY AS MAN AND WIFE!


NOBODY CAN COMPLAIN IF ROBOTS GET MARRIED AND START A FAMILY NOW!
IT SEEMS LIKE A DREAM, DEAR...
CHK
'COURSE, SOME HUMANS STILL DESPISE ROBOTS ...
SO I'VE STILL GOT LOTS TO FIGHT FOR... TO FIGHT FOR TRUE EQUALITY AND FREEDOM FOR ROBOTS...
KAVOOM!
HELEN ...
THUD


YOU'RE FREE NOW, ASTRO... WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?
GOSH, I'D LIKE TO GO HOME...
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, ASTRO, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A MOM AND DAD ANYMORE...
YOUR MOTHER DIED...
... AND YOUR FATHER'S MISSING NOW, TOO...
B...BUT WHAT HAPPENED ?!
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU, BUT I COULDN'T BEAR TO...
THIS IS MY OLD HOUSE... BUT NO MOTHER?
THIS IS MY ROOM...
THERE'S A LETTER ON THE DESK!

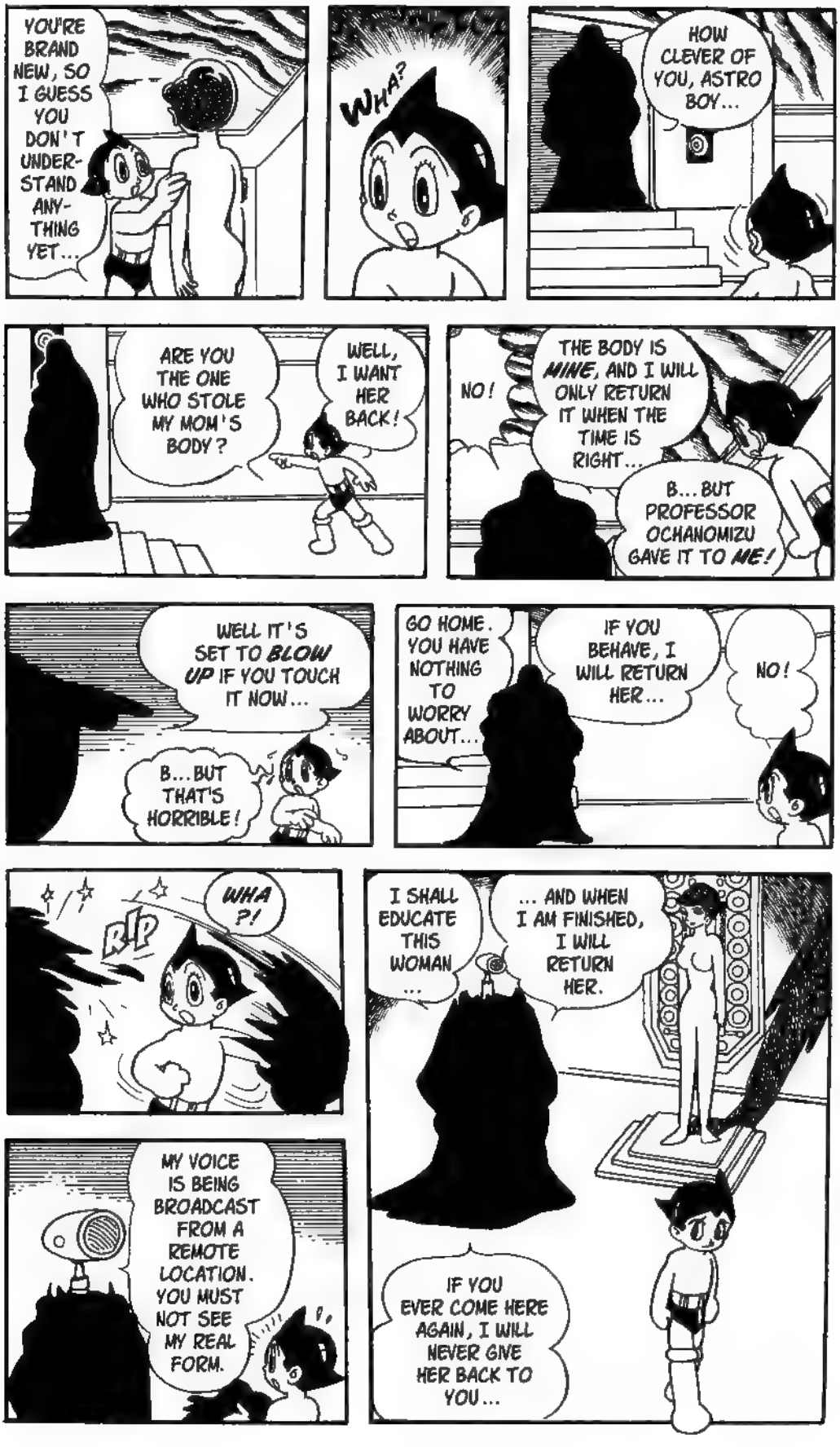
IT'S IN PAPA'S HAND-WRITING!
Dear Astro,
Congratulations on the robot law passing. Now that you're free, I'm sure you will come back here. As your father, I am too ashamed to show my face, but rest assured, behind the scenes I will always be praying for your happiness
Your father, Umataro Tenma.
....
....
GOSH, HE DIDN'T HAVE TO LEAVE HOME ...
I SORT OF UNDERSTAND HOW HE FEELS, ASTRO...
WHY DON'T YOU STAY AT MY PLACE TONIGHT?
NO, I THINK I'LL SLEEP HERE, PROFES-SOR...
I SEE. WELL, LET ME SHOW YOU SOME-THING...
WHILE WAITING FOR THE DAY YOU'D BECOME FREE, I MADE SOMETHING FOR YOU...
GO AHEAD, OPEN IT...
W...WHAT ARE THESE, PROFES-SOR?
TAKE A GUESS. THEY'RE SOMETHING YOU'VE LOST, BUT REALLY NEED...
I KNOW!
ARE THEY REALLY FOR ME?!
OF COURSE! THEY'RE YOUR NEW ROBOT PARENTS!
HOORAY!

"THEY'RE YOUR PARENTS, ASTRO, I CAN GIVE THEM ANY FACE YOU WANT..."
I CAN CREATE ANY FACE IN A WEEK...
REALLY? CAN YOU MAKE 'EM LOOK LIKE MY REAL PARENT'S FACES THEN?
WHOA, ASTRO...
YOUR MOTHER DIED, SO IT'S OKAY TO REPRODUCE HER FACE, BUT EVEN IF YOUR FATHER'S MISSING, HE'S STILL ALIVE SOMEWHERE...
"WHAT'D HAPPEN IF HE SUDDENLY CAME HOME?"
?
?
SO THINK ABOUT IT FOR AWHILE, AND LET ME KNOW WHAT FACES YOU'D LIKE.
WITH THAT, I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE...
GOSH, I SURE FEEL HAPPY...
I NEVER DREAMED HE'D MAKE ME SOME PARENTS!
G'NITE MOM! G'NITE DAD!


IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SLEPT IN MY OWN BED...
ROBOTS DON'T REALLY GET TIRED OR SLEEPY, BUT WHEN WE REST WE TURN OFF OUR ENERGY...
...AN' WE SET OURSELVES TO WAKE UP, LIKE AN ALARM CLOCK...
G' NITE...
CREAK
CHAK

WHA?
I SENSED SOME-ONE...
WHAT THE--P!
MY MOM 'N DAD HAVE BEEN STOLEN!
FLASH
THIS IS TERRIBLE! WHY COULD ANYONE STEAL THEM? THEY'RE NOT EVEN FINISHED YET!
THE GRASS IS FLATTENED FROM THE WEIGHT ...
LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY CARRIED THEM ON THEIR SHOULDER...
THEY MUST HAVE GOTTEN INTO AN AIR CAR HERE...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
MY SMELL CIRCUITS DETECT COMPRESSED AIR...
THEY WENT THIS-A-WAY...
HMM... THAT'S ODD... THE TRAIL LEADS INTO THE MOUN-TAINS...
A LIMESTONE CAVE!

13° ABOVE FREEZING, HUMIDITY 65... HARD FOR A HUMAN TO BE IN HERE MORE THAN AN HOUR...
I'LL SET MY HEARING TO 1000X.
HMM... I HEAR THE FAINT SOUND OF A MOTOR...
IT'S COMING FROM IN HERE!
HM... THIS IS A HEATER...
WHAT THE --?!
MOM!
MAMA!
MY MOTHER!
IT'S ME, MOM! I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
GLOM
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?
I DON'T GET IT... SOMEONE STOLE YOUR TORSO FROM OUR HOUSE!
?
?

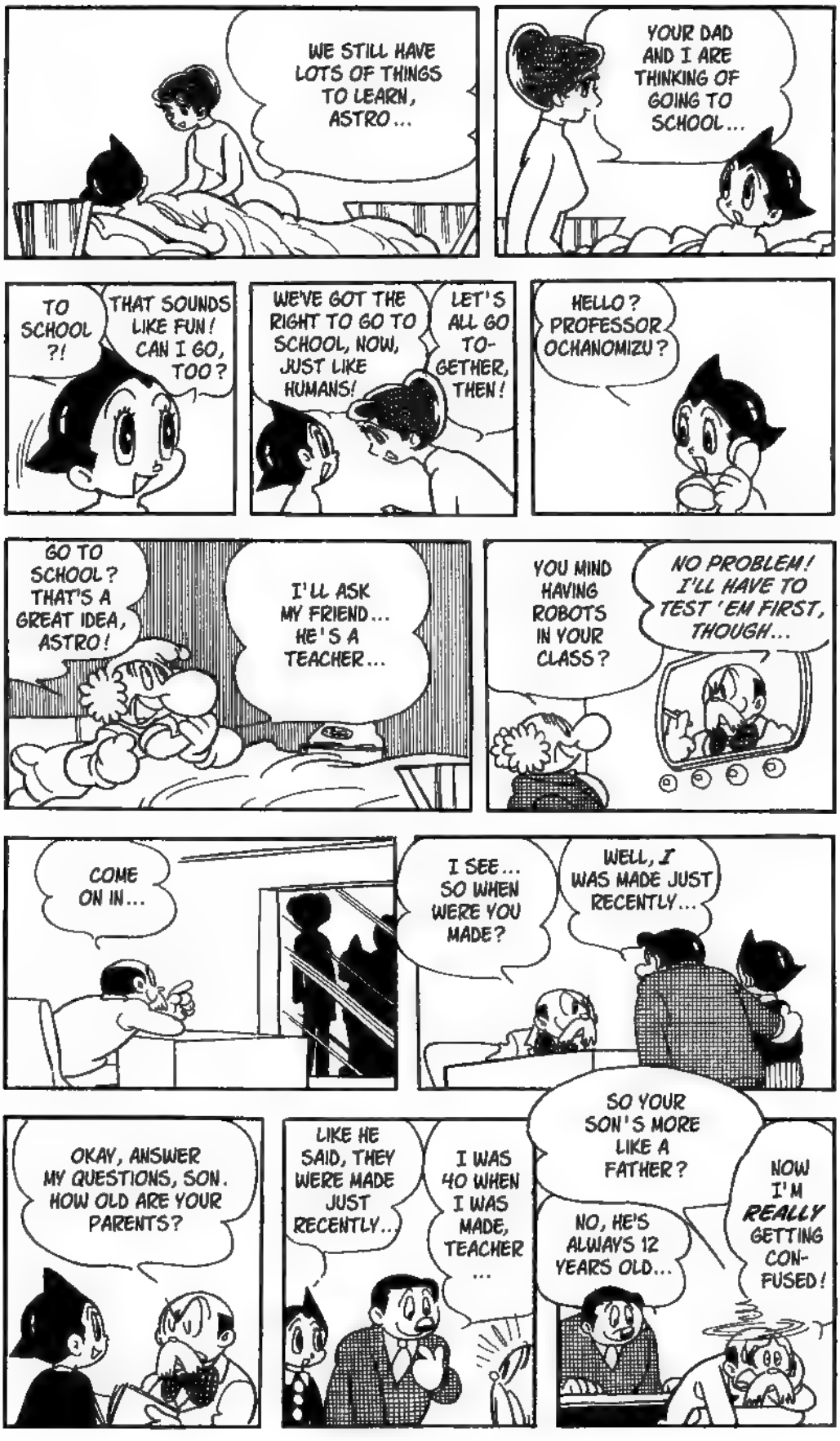

YOU'RE BRAND NEW, SO I GUESS YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND ANY-THING YET...
WHA?
HOW CLEVER OF YOU, ASTRO BOY...
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO STOLE MY MOM'S BODY?
WELL, I WANT HER BACK!
NO!
THE BODY IS MINE, AND I WILL ONLY RETURN IT WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT...
B...BUT PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU GAVE IT TO ME!
WELL IT'S SET TO BLOW UP IF YOU TOUCH IT NOW...
B...BUT THAT'S HORRIBLE!
GO HOME. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...
IF YOU BEHAVE, I WILL RETURN HER...
NO!
RIP
WHA?!
I SHALL EDUCATE THIS WOMAN...
... AND WHEN I AM FINISHED, I WILL RETURN HER.
MY VOICE IS BEING BROADCAST FROM A REMOTE LOCATION. YOU MUST NOT SEE MY REAL FORM.
IF YOU EVER COME HERE AGAIN, I WILL NEVER GIVE HER BACK TO YOU...

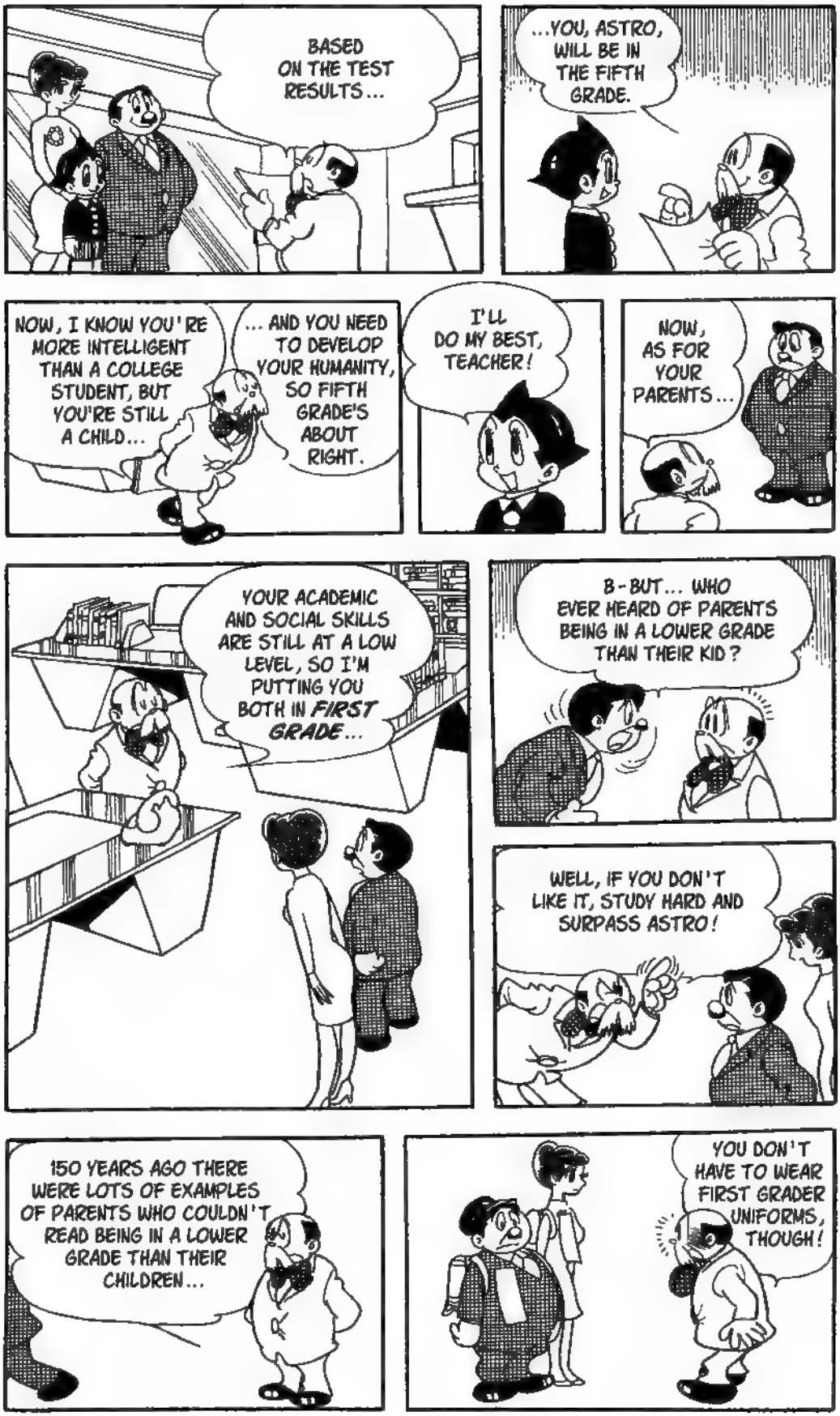
SOUNDS LIKE THE MICRO-PHONE'S TALKING TO HER...
FOR A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY, REPEAT AFTER ME.
YES...
...YOU ARE HOSHIE TENMA...
HO.. SHI.. E...
YOU HAVE A CHILD ...
... HAVE CHILD ...
THE CHILD IS NAMED "ASTRO."
ASTRO..
HE CALLS YOU HIS MOM ...
MOOM...
"MOM", NOT "MOOM" ...
MOM ...
PUT THE TRAY DOWN AND ADD SUGAR...
TEA... SUGAR...
NEXT I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO SERVE TEA...
RIGHT ...WALK GENTLY ...
NOT SO MUCH! IT'LL BE TOO SWEET!
HEY! NOBODY PUTS SALT IN TEA IF IT'S TOO SWEET!

THAT SOUNDED LIKE PAPA'S VOICE...
LIKE DR. TENMA'S VOICE!
I GET IT... IN ORDER TO CREATE A MOM JUST LIKE MY REAL MOM...
... HE STOLE THE ROBOT BODY, AND HE'S TRYING TO TEACH HER...
IF THE RESULT'S A MOM LIKE MY REAL MOM, I CAN WAIT...
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS...
IT'S BEEN A WHOLE WEEK...
TEN DAYS ...
STILL NO MOM ...
I SURE MISS HER...
SOMEONE'S COMING!
I'M HOME!
WHA ?!

UM, ER, I...
?
I'M YER HAPPY-GO-LUCKY-DAD!
TO HECK WITH THE HAPPY-GO LUCKY PART! YOU'RE MY DAD?
SURE AM...
GOOD AFTERNOON! YOU'RE SO ROLLY-POLLY!
AH, IT'S TRUE, ETER-NALLY SO...
YOUR MOTHER'N I COME TOGETHER AS A PACKAGE ...
MOM!!!
ASTRO!
MOM!
WE'RE GOING TO BE YOUR PARENTS FROM TODAY ON, ASTRO... WE'VE ALL GOT TO GET ALONG TOGETHER...
YOUR MOM TALKS BETTER THAN ME...
SHE'S BETTER MADE...
WELL, IT'S TIME TO RELAX ...
THIS SUITCOAT JUST GETS IN THE WAY...
DAD! DON'T TAKE YOUR HEAD OFF LIKE THAT!
MAKES IT EASIER TO REMOVE MY JACKET...

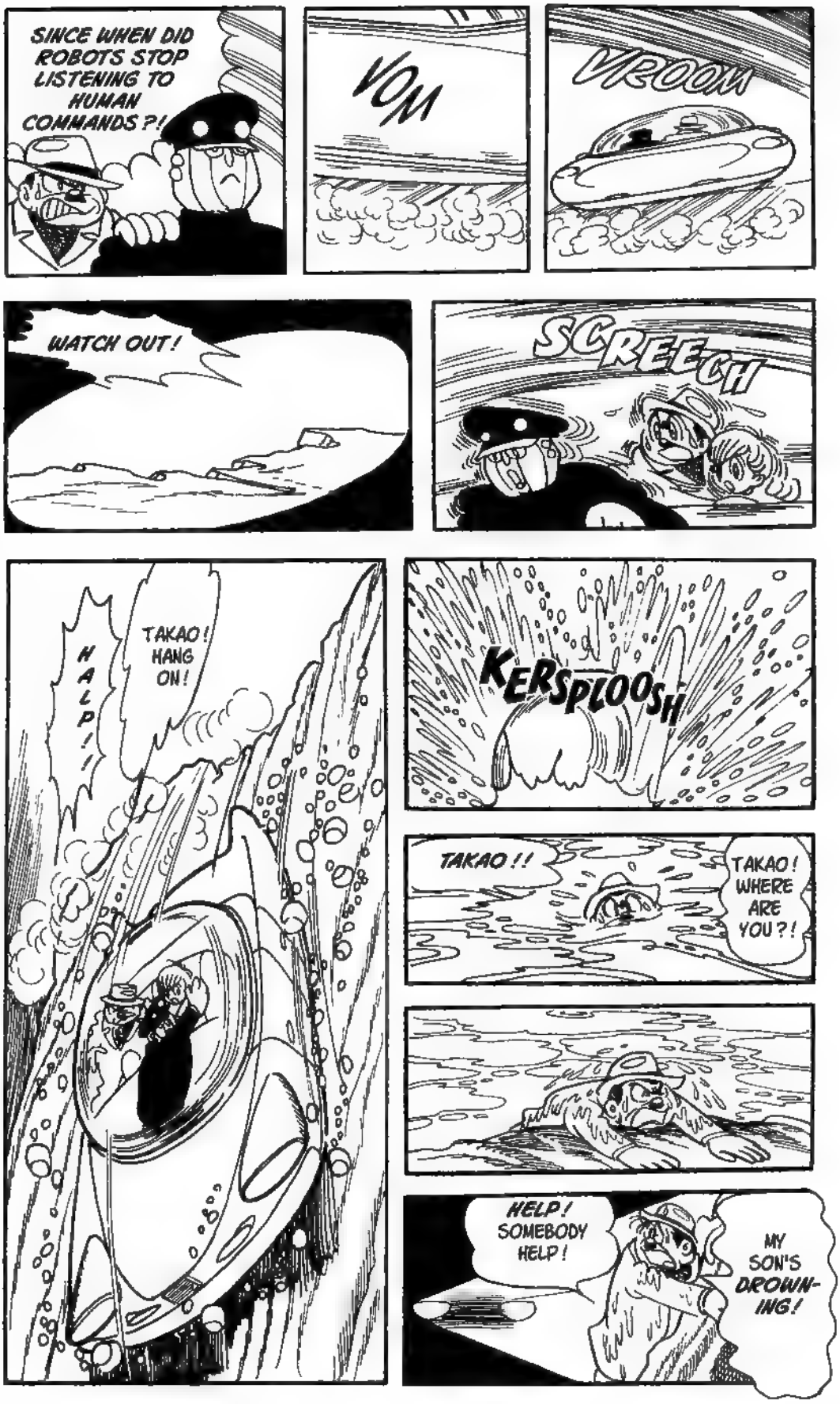
WELL, HERE WE ARE AS A FAMILY. TIME TO ENJOY EACH OTHER'S FOMPANY...
THAT'S "COMPANY," DEAR...
DR. TENMA USED TO SIT HERE AND DRINK TEA WITH US...
'N EAT MEALS ...
...'N RELAX...
LET'S IMITATE HIM THEN. IMITATING'S GOOD...
COULD YOU BRING SOME TEA, DEAR?
THIS LOOKS LIKE TEA...
TEA LEAVES
SO HUMANS DRINK THIS STUFF?
MIGHT AS WELL TRY IT...
RASP RASP
NO, DAD... YOU HAVE TO POUR HOT WATER OVER TEA LEAVES FIRST!
HOKAY... I'LL JUST POUR SOME IN AFTER... OUGHTA BE THE SAME...
THAT'S NOT THE RIGHT WAY, DAD...
HOKAY, HOKAY...
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN THE SHOWER, DAD?
VOOOSH
I'M POURING HOT WATER OVER THE TEA...


WE STILL HAVE LOTS OF THINGS TO LEARN, ASTRO...
YOUR DAD AND I ARE THINKING OF GOING TO SCHOOL...
TO SCHOOL?!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN! CAN I GO, TOO?
WE'VE GOT THE RIGHT TO GO TO SCHOOL, NOW, JUST LIKE HUMANS!
LET'S ALL GO TO-GETHER, THEN!
HELLO? PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU?
GO TO SCHOOL? THAT'S A GREAT IDEA, ASTRO!
I'LL ASK MY FRIEND... HE'S A TEACHER...
YOU MIND HAVING ROBOTS IN YOUR CLASS?
NO PROBLEM! I'LL HAVE TO TEST 'EM FIRST, THOUGH...
COME ON IN...
I SEE... SO WHEN WERE YOU MADE?
WELL, I WAS MADE JUST RECENTLY...
OKAY, ANSWER MY QUESTIONS, SON. HOW OLD ARE YOUR PARENTS?
LIKE HE SAID, THEY WERE MADE JUST RECENTLY...
I WAS 40 WHEN I WAS MADE, TEACHER ...
SO YOUR SON'S MORE LIKE A FATHER?
NO, HE'S ALWAYS 12 YEARS OLD...
NOW I'M REALLY GETTING CON-FUSED!


BASED ON THE TEST RESULTS...
...YOU, ASTRO, WILL BE IN THE FIFTH GRADE.
NOW, I KNOW YOU'RE MORE INTELLIGENT THAN A COLLEGE STUDENT, BUT YOU'RE STILL A CHILD...
... AND YOU NEED TO DEVELOP YOUR HUMANITY, SO FIFTH GRADE'S ABOUT RIGHT.
I'LL DO MY BEST, TEACHER!
NOW, AS FOR YOUR PARENTS...
YOUR ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL SKILLS ARE STILL AT A LOW LEVEL, SO I'M PUTTING YOU BOTH IN FIRST GRADE...
B-BUT... WHO EVER HEARD OF PARENTS BEING IN A LOWER GRADE THAN THEIR KID?
WELL, IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, STUDY HARD AND SURPASS ASTRO!
150 YEARS AGO THERE WERE LOTS OF EXAMPLES OF PARENTS WHO COULDN'T READ BEING IN A LOWER GRADE THAN THEIR CHILDREN...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR FIRST GRADER UNIFORMS, THOUGH!

ASTRO GOES TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GOOD THING THE ROBOT LAW PASSED, EH, DRIVER?
YESSIR, IT IS...
BUT DON'T GET ANY IDEAS JUST BECAUSE OF SOME SILLY LAW, OKAY?
YOU'RE MY ROBOT EMPLOYEE, AND YOU'VE GOTTA DO AS I SAY, OKAY?
YES, SIR ...
WE'D BETTER NOT GO TO THE RIGHT, SIR...
1120
96
DANGEROUS ROAD CONDITIONS AHEAD
GOING LEFT'LL TAKE TOO LONG, GO RIGHT!
BUT IT'S DANGER-OUS, SIR...
BUT IT'S DANGER-OUS, SIR...
HEY! DON'T USE THE ROBOT LAW JUST TO ACT CHEEKY, OR I'LL HAVE YOU SMASHED!
THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO YOUR MASTER!
DO AS I SAY! GO TO THE RIGHT!


SINCE WHEN DID ROBOTS STOP LISTENING TO HUMAN COMMANDS?!
VOM
VROOM
WATCH OUT!
SCREECH
HALP!!
TAKAO! HANG ON!
KERSPLOOSH
TAKAO!!
TAKAO! WHERE ARE YOU?!
HELP! SOMEBODY HELP!
MY SON'S DROWNING!

SHOOSH
SHOOSH
SOME-BODY SAVE MY SON!
IT'S A TREACH-EROUS CURRENT, SIR...
THE RESCUE UNIT'S ON ITS WAY...
THE RIVER BED RESCUE UNIT'S HERE!
WE'VE LOCATED THE CAR WRECK. NOTHING INSIDE THE CAR!
NOTHING INSIDE? HE MUST HAVE BEEN SWEPT DOWNSTREAM! HURRY UP AND SEARCH!
THE DRIVER'S HAT HAS BEEN RECOVERED, 100 YARDS DOWN-STREAM...
DRIVER? HE'S JUST A BLASTED ROBOT!
THAT ROBOT'S THE REASON WE FELL OFF THE CLIFF! HE MURDERED MY SON!!

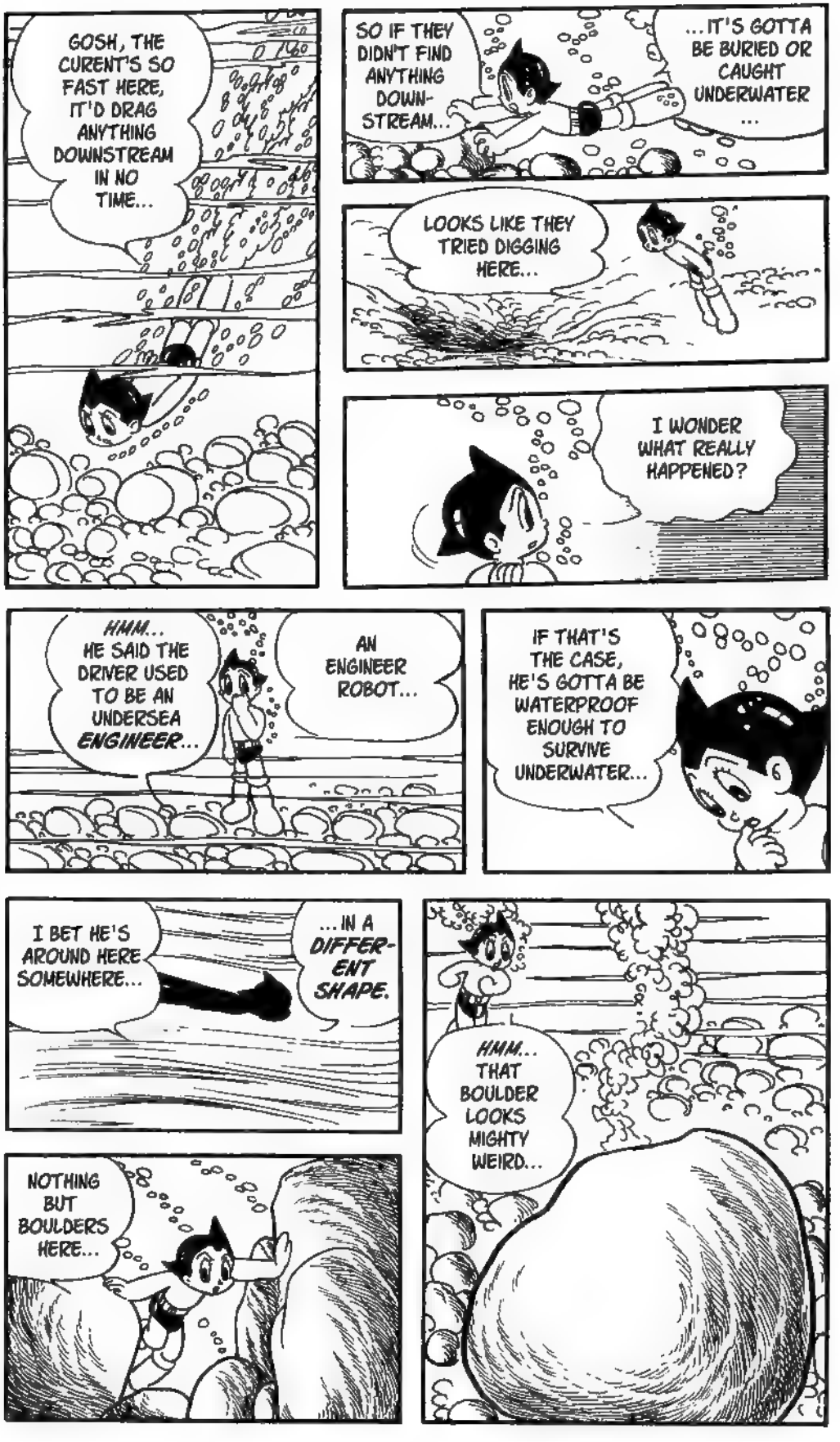
OCHANOMIZU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WHO WOULD'VE THUNK WE'D STILL HAVE NEWS-PAPERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY ...
...BUT WE NEED 'EM IN ORDER TO READ THE COMIC STRIPS...
WHAT THE--?!
"THE ROBOT DRIVER FOR MR. P.K. YUNI, PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN UNDERSEA DEVELOPMENT CORP, MADE A FATAL ERROR AND PLUNGED THE CAR INTO THE RIVER..."
HE'S A PERSNICKETY GUY... THE PRINCIPAL 'N ALL THE TEACHERS'LL HAVE TO GO PAY THEIR RESPECTS...
A ROBOT AGAIN !
Dangerous driving, falls into river.
"MR. P.K YUNI'S ONLY SON, TAKAO, IS MISSING..."
MR. P.K. YUNI... HMM... COME TO THINK OF IT... HE DONATES LOTS OF MONEY TO THIS SCHOOL...
BZZZZZ
'YELLO? OCHANOMIZU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HERE. WHAT? MR. P.K. YUNI?
I'M AWFULLY SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR TRAGEDY, SIR...
QUIT THE BOWING! I CALLED TO COMPLAIN ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL!
ABOUT US?

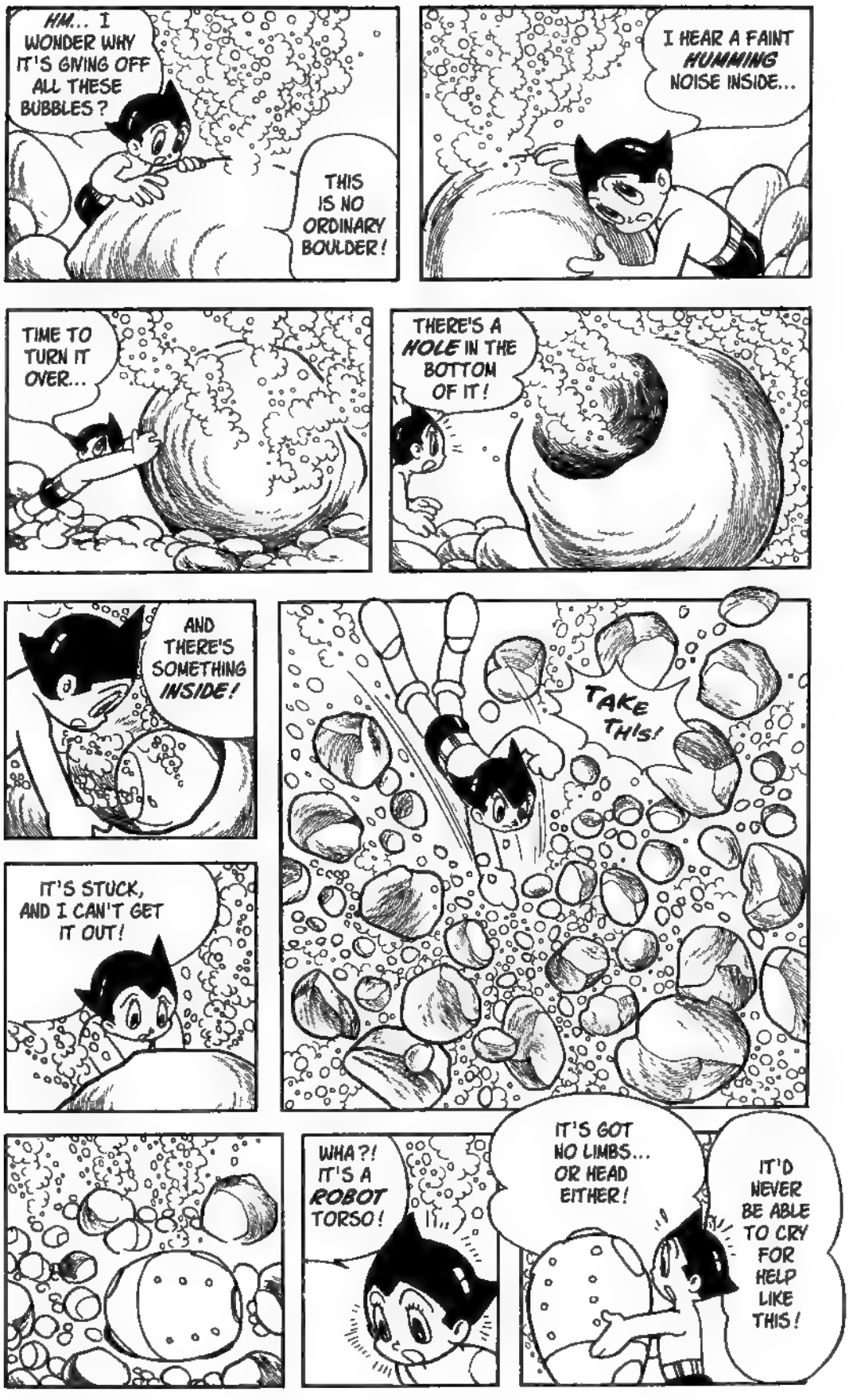
I HEARD YOU'RE GONNA ADMIT ROBOTS INTO YOUR SCHOOL!
YESSIR?
WELL, WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION?!
WELL, ER, THE ROBOT LAW PASSED...
...SO ROBOTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO STUDY WITH HUMAN KIDS NOW...
NEVER!
PRE-POST-EROUS!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT OTHER SCHOOLS, BUT THIS SCHOOL'LL NEVER ADMIT ROBOTS!
TELL THE PRINCIPAL! OR WATCH OUT!!
B-BUT ASTRO BOY'S--
NO "IFS," "ANDS," OR "BUTS!"
I DON'T TRUST ROBOTS!
NOT EVEN WITH A TEN FOOT POLE!
HERE'S HOW I HANDLE TV-FON PEOPLE I DON'T LIKE!

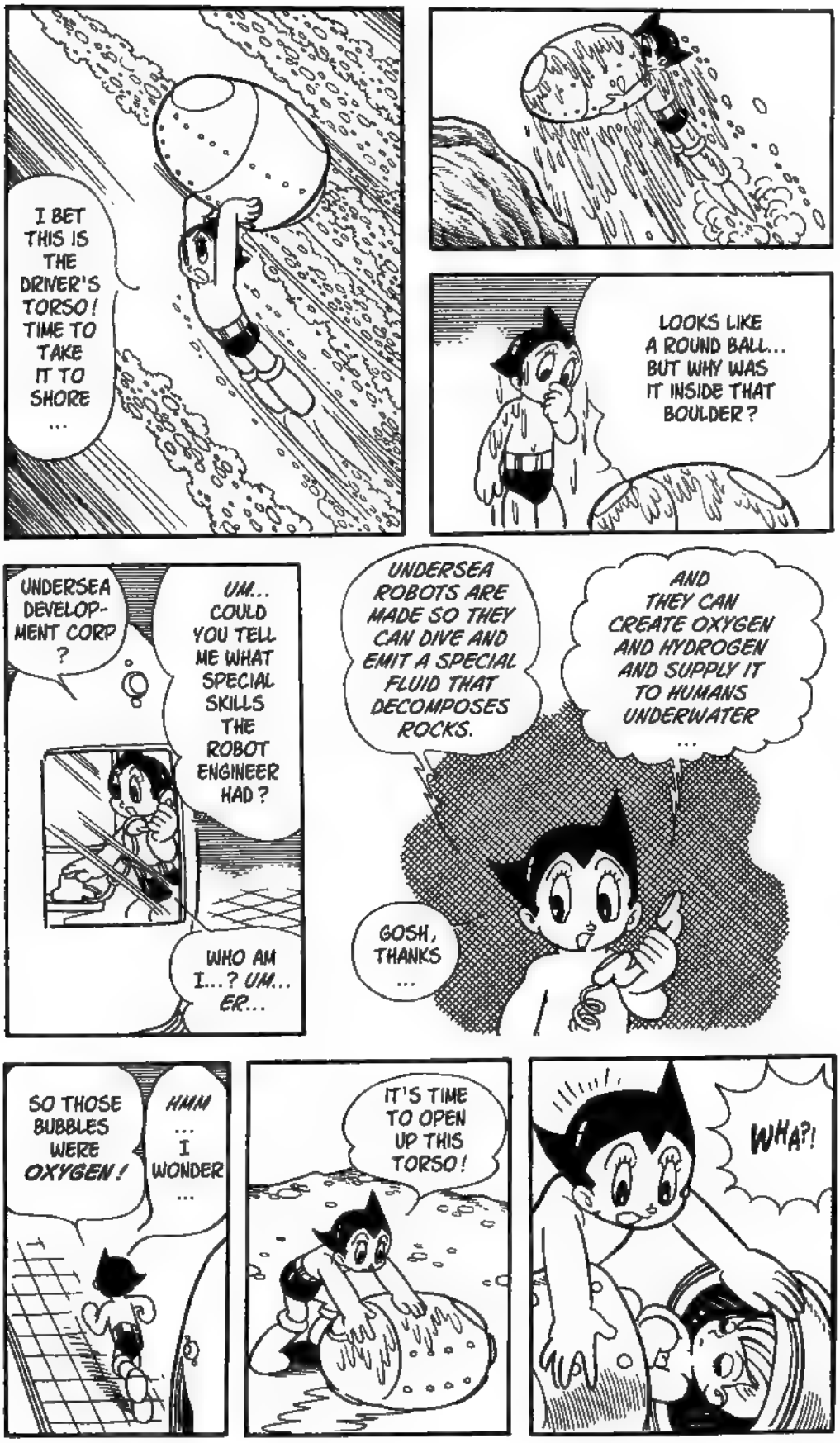
...SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...
I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS, BUT WE'VE HAD TO SUSPEND YOUR ADMISSION...
SUSPEND ADMISSION?
THAT'S TERRIBLE! WHY?
ONE OF THE SPONSORS WON'T AGREE...
A SPONSOR? WHO?!
IT'S A GUY WHO HATES ROBOTS, BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED RECENTLY...
WELL, I'M GONNA TELL HIM WHAT I THINK!
THINK OF THE POOR CHILDREN!
AS A PARENT I'M NOT GONNA STAY SILENT! I'M GONNA GIVE HIM AN EARFUL!
UM... DEAR...
IN THIS CASE YOU'RE A PARENT, BUT YOU'RE ALSO TRYING TO ENROLL IN THE SCHOOL AS A STUDENT!
DAD, MR. P.K. YUNI'S ON THE TV!
GRR RRR! BLASTED NO GOOD ROBOTS!!
IT'S JUST AS IF MY SON HAD BEEN KILLED BY A ROBOT!
I WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO START TREATING ROBOTS LIKE MACHINES AGAIN, NOT HUMANS!
THAT'S TERRIBLE!

BUZZ
COME IN...
WELL, IF IT ISN'T ASTRO... HERE, MEET *INSPECTOR TAWASHI*, OF THE POLICE AGENCY...
GOOD AFTER-NOON...
SO THIS IS THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE'S STATE OF THE ART ROBOT, IS IT?
LOOKS LIKE A MERE CHILD TO ME!
WE WERE JUST DISCUSSING THE CASE OF YOUNG TAKAO, ASTRO...
HMPH
ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THAT...
YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT NEITHER TAKAO NOR THE DRIVER HAVE BEEN FOUND YET...
YOU THINK THEY WERE SWEPT DOWN-STREAM?
NOT A CHANCE. WE'VE SEARCHED EVERY-WHERE...
BUT SOMETHING'S STRANGE... IT'S LIKE THEY *EVAPORATED*... THERE MUST BE *SOME* REASON THEIR BODIES HAVEN'T FLOATED TO THE SURFACE...
UM, ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO ASK YOU IF I COULD TRY SEARCHING FOR THEM UNDER-WATER...
HMPH. WHAT COULD A ROBOT FIND THAT WE HAVEN'T?

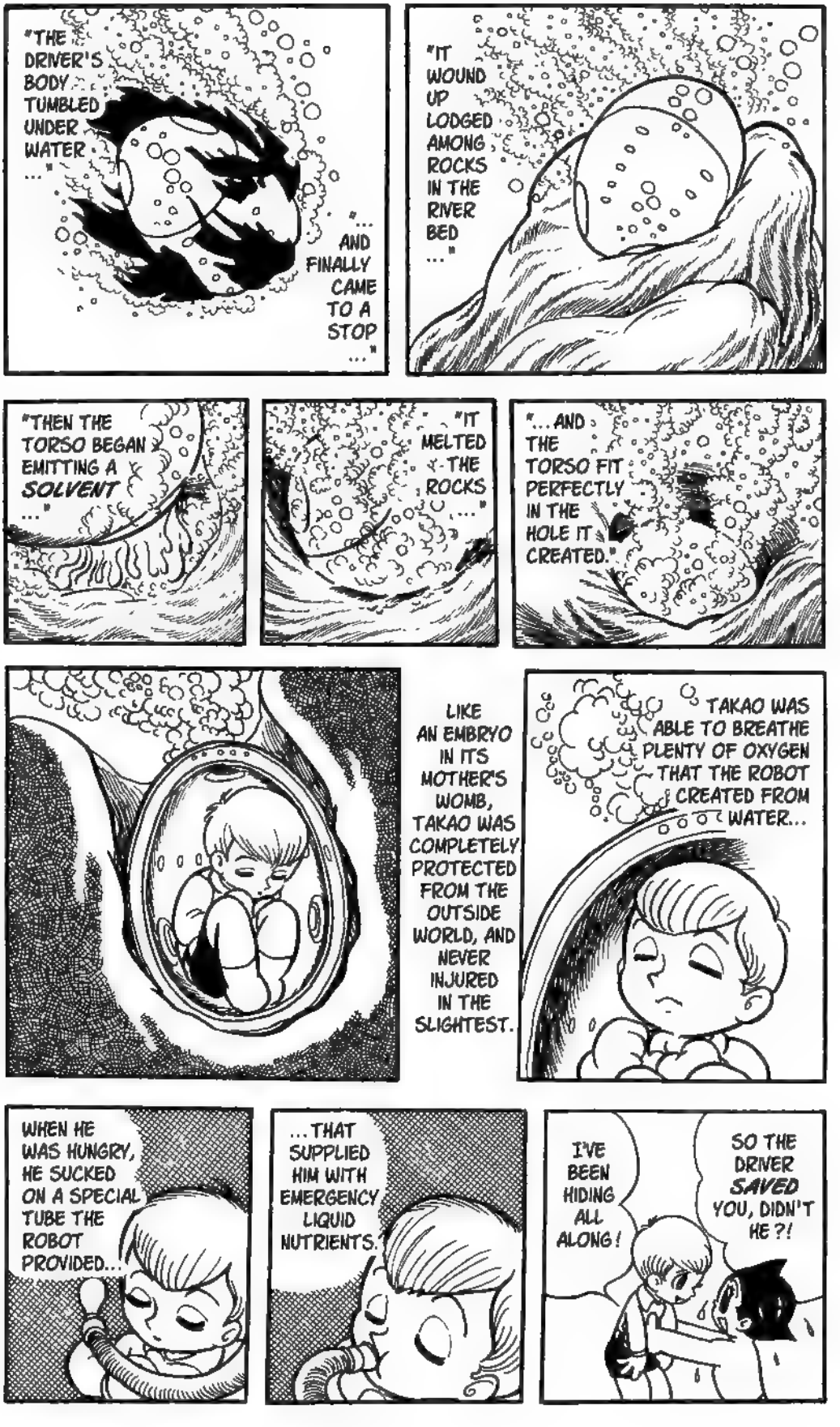
JAPAN UNDERSEA DEVELOPMENT CORP.
HOW CAN I HELP YOU, YOUNG MAN?
I'D LIKE TO ASK ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S DRIVER...
AH, #33?
HE USED TO BE AN UNDERSEA ENGINEER ROBOT, SEE. THEN THE BOSS MADE HIM HIS PERSONAL DRIVER...
...BUT HE WAS UNLUCKY, AND FELL INTO THE WATER AND DISAP-PEARED...
WHAT A STRANGE FATE...
'MUST BE MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE...
THEY WENT OFF THE ROAD HERE...
IT'S TIME TO DO A LITTLE SEARCH...

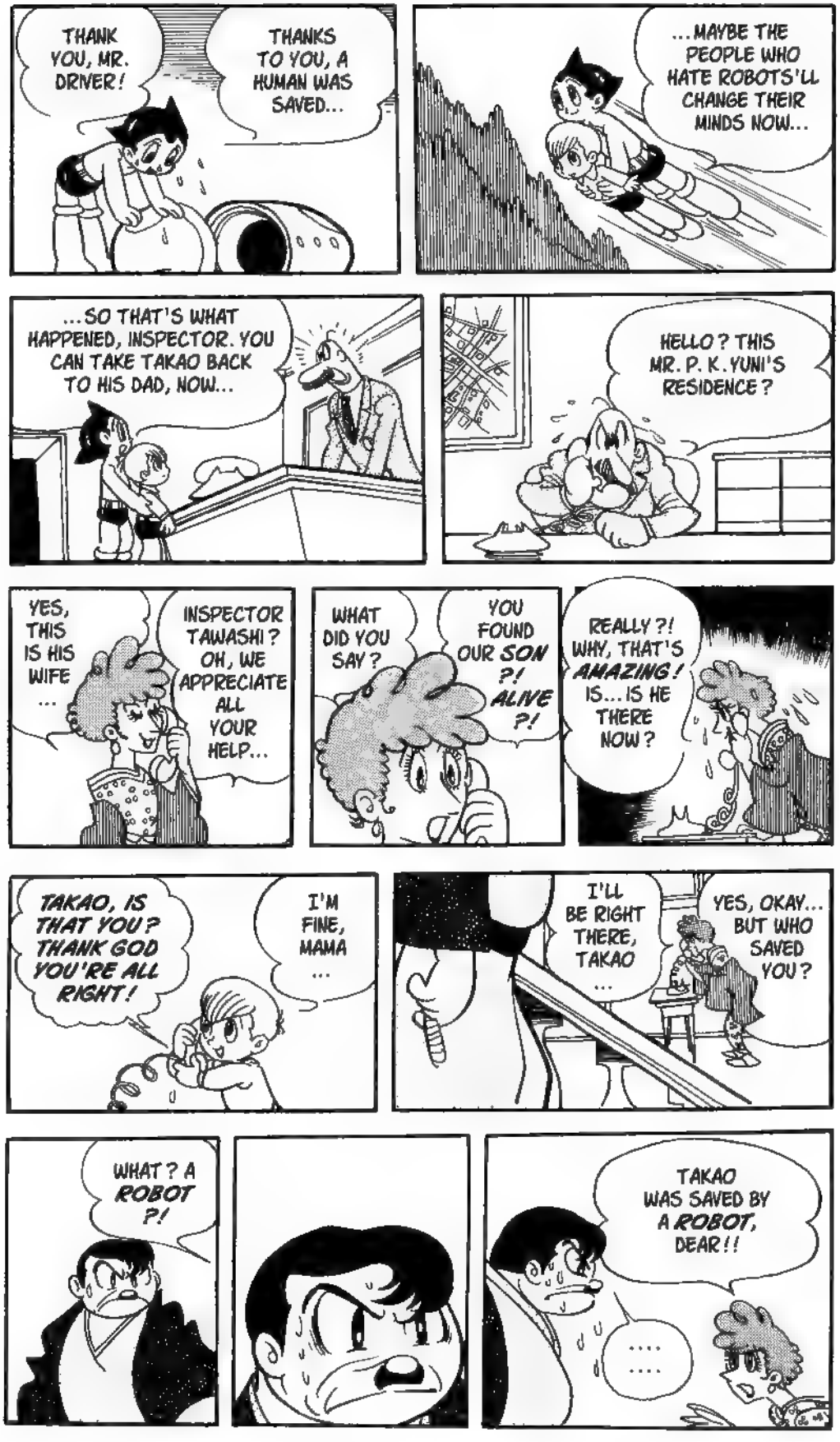

GOSH, THE CURENT'S SO FAST HERE, IT'D DRAG ANYTHING DOWNSTREAM IN NO TIME...
SO IF THEY DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING DOWN-STREAM...
...IT'S GOTTA BE BURIED OR CAUGHT UNDERWATER ...
LOOKS LIKE THEY TRIED DIGGING HERE...
I WONDER WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?
HMM... HE SAID THE DRIVER USED TO BE AN UNDERSEA ENGINEER...
AN ENGINEER ROBOT...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, HE'S GOTTA BE WATERPROOF ENOUGH TO SURVIVE UNDERWATER...
I BET HE'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE...
...IN A DIFFER-ENT SHAPE.
HMM... THAT BOULDER LOOKS MIGHTY WEIRD...
NOTHING BUT BOULDERS HERE...


HM... I WONDER WHY IT'S GIVING OFF ALL THESE BUBBLES?
THIS IS NO ORDINARY BOULDER!
I HEAR A FAINT HUMMING NOISE INSIDE...
TIME TO TURN IT OVER...
THERE'S A HOLE IN THE BOTTOM OF IT!
AND THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE!
TAKE THIS!
IT'S STUCK, AND I CAN'T GET IT OUT!
WHA?! IT'S A ROBOT TORSO!
IT'S GOT NO LIMBS... OR HEAD EITHER!
IT'D NEVER BE ABLE TO CRY FOR HELP LIKE THIS!


I BET THIS IS THE DRIVER'S TORSO! TIME TO TAKE IT TO SHORE ...
LOOKS LIKE A ROUND BALL... BUT WHY WAS IT INSIDE THAT BOULDER?
UNDERSEA DEVELOP-MENT CORP ?
UM... COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT SPECIAL SKILLS THE ROBOT ENGINEER HAD ?
WHO AM I...? UM... ER...
UNDERSEA ROBOTS ARE MADE SO THEY CAN DIVE AND EMIT A SPECIAL FLUID THAT DECOMPOSES ROCKS.
AND THEY CAN CREATE OXYGEN AND HYDROGEN AND SUPPLY IT TO HUMANS UNDERWATER ...
GOSH, THANKS ...
SO THOSE BUBBLES WERE OXYGEN!
HMM ... I WONDER ...
IT'S TIME TO OPEN UP THIS TORSO!
WHA?!

THIS HAS GOTTA BE MR. P. K. YUNI'S SON, TAKAO!
TAKAO... SAY SOMETHING!!
ACK!
YOU THINK YOU'RE STILL UNDER WATER, DON'T YOU...
RELAX... YOU'VE BEEN SAVED, TAKAO...
I'M AMAZED THAT YOU STAYED ALIVE IN THERE!
HMGH.
WHAT HAPPENED? DO YOU REMEMBER? I WANNA KNOW...
"I FELL INTO THE RIVER AND WAS DROWNING... THEN THE DRIVER MAN GRABBED ME BY THE LEGS..."
"HE FORCED ME INSIDE HIS BODY ..."
"I HEARD THE SOUND OF HIS ARMS AND LEGS BEING TORN OFF..."


"THE DRIVER'S BODY TUMBLED UNDER WATER ..."
"... AND FINALLY CAME TO A STOP ..."
"IT WOUND UP LODGED AMONG ROCKS IN THE RIVER BED ..."
"THEN THE TORSO BEGAN EMITTING A SOLVENT ..."
"IT MELTED THE ROCKS ...."
"... AND THE TORSO FIT PERFECTLY IN THE HOLE IT CREATED."
LIKE AN EMBRYO IN ITS MOTHER'S WOMB, TAKAO WAS COMPLETELY PROTECTED FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD, AND NEVER INJURED IN THE SLIGHTEST.
TAKAO WAS ABLE TO BREATHE PLENTY OF OXYGEN THAT THE ROBOT CREATED FROM WATER...
WHEN HE WAS HUNGRY, HE SUCKED ON A SPECIAL TUBE THE ROBOT PROVIDED...
...THAT SUPPLIED HIM WITH EMERGENCY LIQUID NUTRIENTS.
I'VE BEEN HIDING ALL ALONG!
SO THE DRIVER SAVED YOU, DIDN'T HE?!


THANK YOU, MR. DRIVER!
THANKS TO YOU, A HUMAN WAS SAVED...
...MAYBE THE PEOPLE WHO HATE ROBOTS'LL CHANGE THEIR MINDS NOW...
...SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED, INSPECTOR. YOU CAN TAKE TAKAO BACK TO HIS DAD, NOW...
HELLO? THIS MR. P. K. YUNI'S RESIDENCE?
YES, THIS IS HIS WIFE ...
INSPECTOR TAWASHI? OH, WE APPRECIATE ALL YOUR HELP...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU FOUND OUR SON ?! ALIVE ?!
REALLY?! WHY, THAT'S AMAZING! IS...IS HE THERE NOW?
TAKAO, IS THAT YOU? THANK GOD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
I'M FINE, MAMA ...
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, TAKAO ...
YES, OKAY... BUT WHO SAVED YOU?
WHAT? A ROBOT?!
TAKAO WAS SAVED BY A ROBOT, DEAR!!
....

I OVERHEARD EVERYTHING. WHAT'S THIS ABOUT TAKAO BEING RESCUED BY A ROBOT?!
IT'S TRUE! HE SOUNDED FINE! LET'S GO GET HIM!
NOT SO FAST!
IF A ROBOT SAVED HIM, I'VE GOT A HUGE PROBLEM!
I'M GLAD HE'S ALIVE, BUT I'M THE CHAIRMAN OF THE A.R.L.P., THE ANTI-ROBOT LAW PARTY! WHAT'LL THE MEMBERS SAY IF THEY FIND OUT I'M OBLIGATED TO SOME ROBOT NOW?!
BUT DEAR, YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT TAKAO'S OKAY!
MY PRIDE WON'T ALLOW THIS...
WELL, I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER... I'M GOING TO GO GET HIM...
SEE IF I INCLUDE YOU IN MY WILL, THEN...
WHAT'D YOU SAY, DEAR?!
Y...YOU MEAN Y-YOU'D CUT ME OFF?!
WELL, THE PARTY'LL ACCUSE ME OF BEING A TRAITOR, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'LL DO TO US THEN!
YOU'RE SCARING ME, DEAR! YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING!
THEN CO-OPERATE WITH ME, BLAST IT!

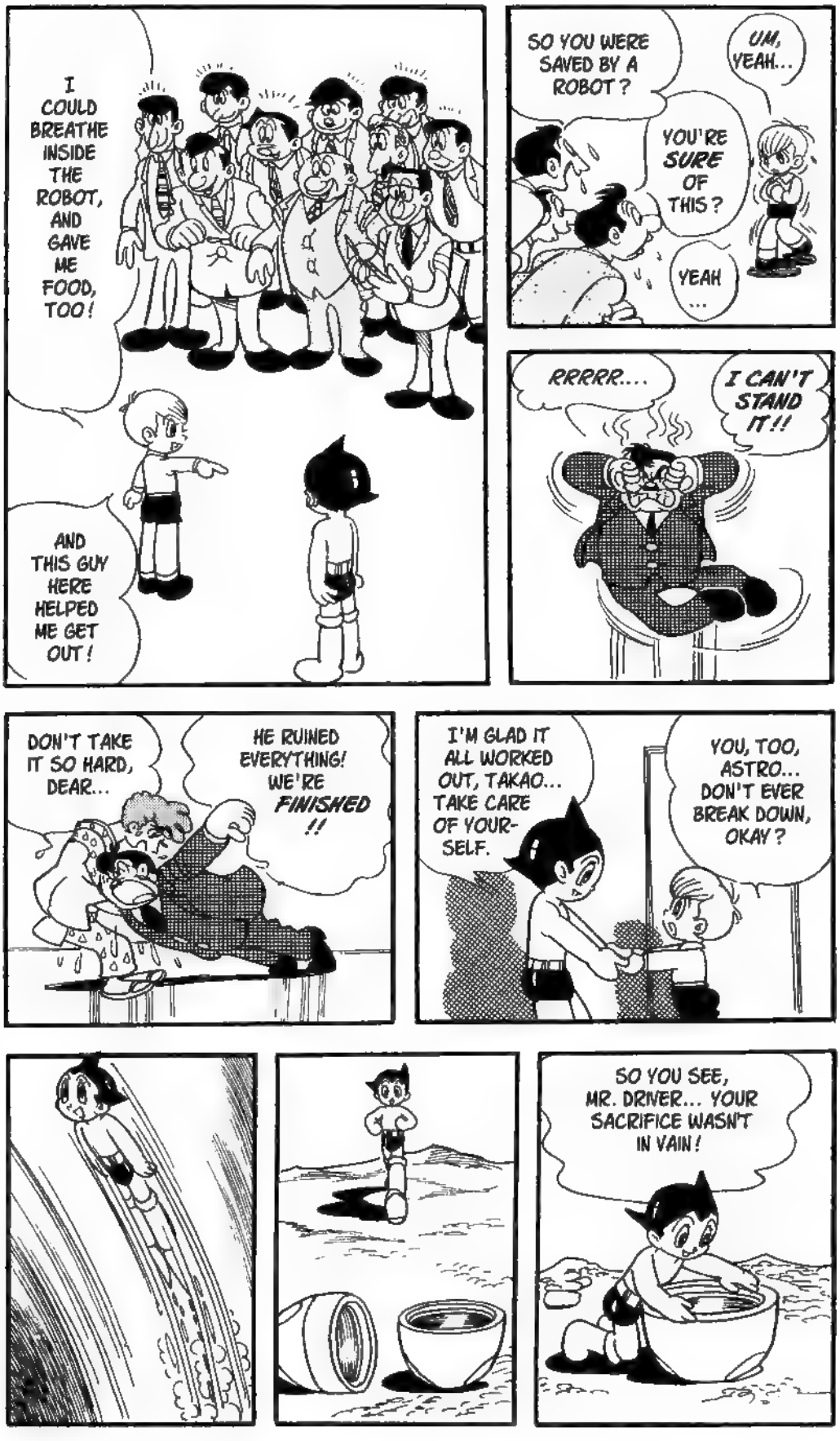
I KNOW... WE'LL FIND A WAY,TO MAKE TAKAO *FORGET* HE WAS SAVED BY A ROBOT...
NEM RAY, THAT WORLD FAMOUS *HYPNOTIST*, IS HERE IN JAPAN FOR A LECTURE NOW... WE COULD ASK HIM!
HI, I'M NEM RAY...
GLAD TA MEET YA... ACTUALLY, I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK...
HOTEL
DON'T WORRY, LADY, IT'S JUST 'CUZ HE LOOKED ME IN THE EYE...
DEAR !!
ZZZZ
WHEN I CLAP MY HANDS THREE TIMES YOU'LL WAKEN AND THEN STAND ON YOUR HEAD...
CLAP
CLAP
WHOOP!
YOU DON'T LOOK VERY DIGNIFIED THAT WAY, DEAR...
WHA? HOW COME I'M STANDING ON MY HANDS?
WOW! THAT REALLY WORKS! I WANT YOU TO HYPONOTIZE MY SON!
WHY? HE'S GOT A BED-WETTING PROBLEM OR SOMETHING?

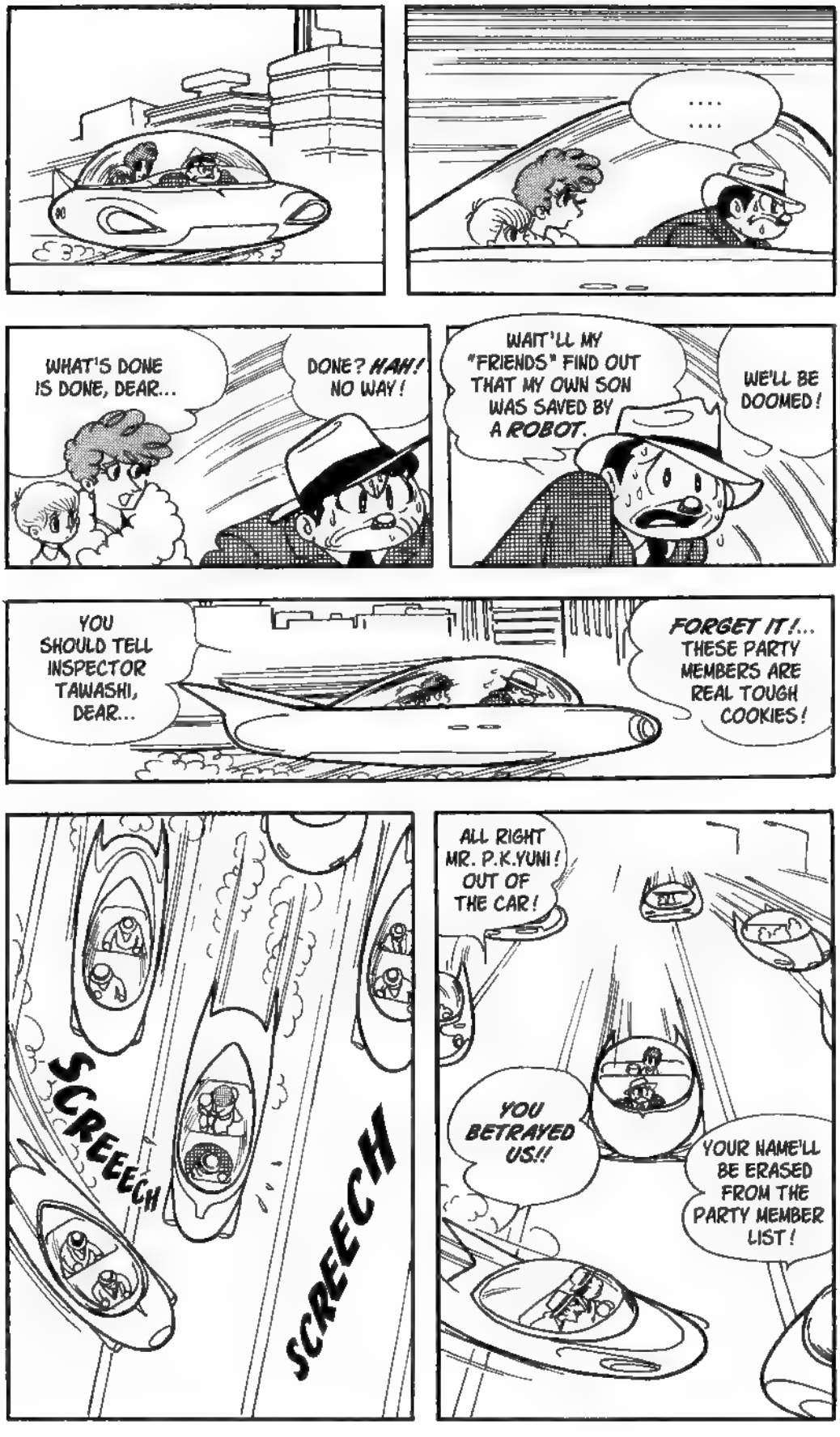
TAKAO!!
MY BABY!
PAPA! MAMA!
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY! WE WERE SO WORRIED!
OH, MAMA!
IT'S A MIRACLE!
OH MAMA, OH MAMA... TRULY THE SWEETEST WORDS...
I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, INSPECTOR...
OKAY, MR. RAY...
CREAK...
WE'VE GOT SOME REPORTERS NEXT DOOR, SIR...
I THOUGHT SO...
GOOOOD BOY, TAKA-O...
NOW LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY... WHEN I CLAP THREE TIMES YOU'LL WAKEN, AND FORGET ALL ABOUT BEING SAVED BY A ROBOT...
YOU SWAM TO SHORE, AND SAVED YOURSELF... ON YOUR OWN...

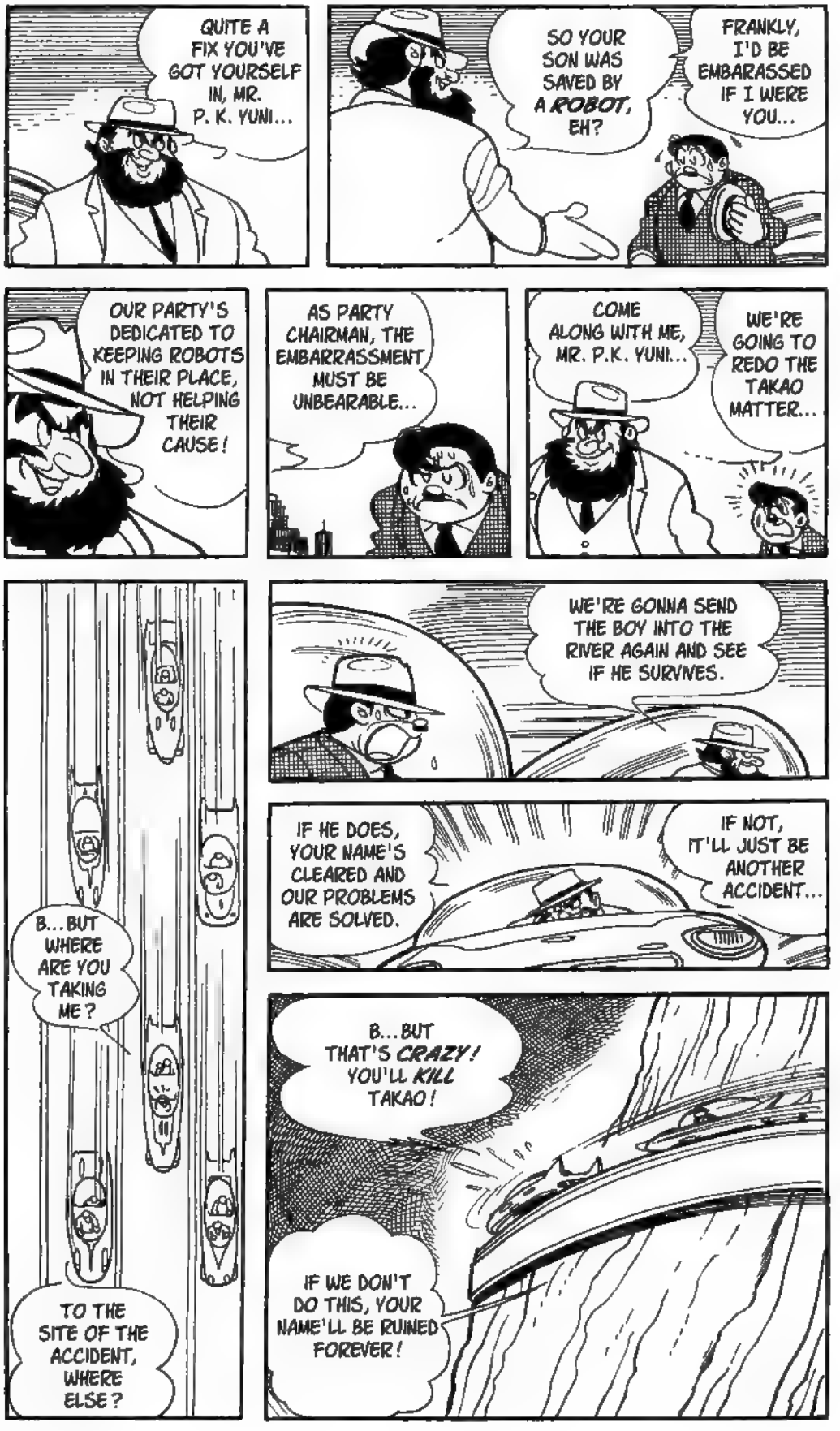
READY? CLAP CLAP CLAP!
LOOK! HE CAME TO!
WONDER IF IT WORKED?
WHA?
OK, TAKAO... WHO SAVED YOU?
I... I DUNNO...
HEY! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
YOU CAN'T ERASE THE BOY'S MEMORY WITH HYPNOTISM!
TIME FOR YOUR NAP, TOO...
AND WHEN YOU COME TO, YOU'LL FORGET EVERYTHING...
GOSH... I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING...
GOOD. AND YOU'D BETTER TEAR UP YOUR POLICE REPORT, TOO...
WAIT! THE ROBOT KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED!
SHALL I ERASE HIS MEMORY, TOO?
YOU ARE FEELING SLEEPY, VERY SLEEPY...
WHEN YOU COME TO, YOU WILL HAVE FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING...
GO TO SLEEP ...
GO TO SLEEP!!
PLEASE?! GO TO SLEEP!

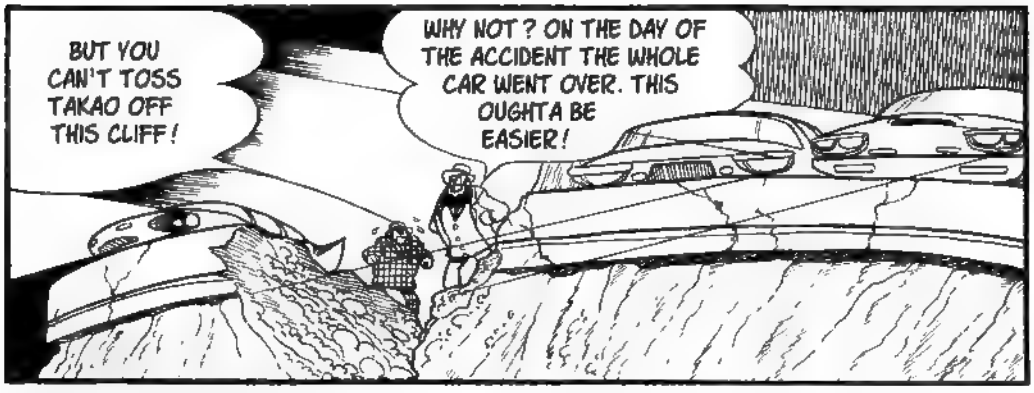
PLEEEASE?! MY REPUTATION'LL BE RUINED IF YOU DON'T GO TO SLEEP!!
IT'S NO USE...
I GUESS HYPNOTISM DOESN'T WORK ON ROBOTS...
WHEW
'COURSE IT DOESN'T!
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, AS LONG AS MY ELECTRO-BRAIN'S WORKING OKAY, I WON'T BE AFFECTED BY IT!
BUT PEOPLE NEARBY MIGHT BE AFFECTED!
LISTEN TAKAO...
ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH, OK?! YOU WERE SAVED BY A ROBOT, RIGHT?
NO, I SAVED MYSELF...
RATS! HE'S REALLY HYPNO-TIZED!
PRESS CONFERENCE IS STARTING ...
LADIES'N GENTS OF THE PRESS. OUR SECOND INVESTI-GATIONS UNIT HAS AN ANNOUNCE-MENT TO MAKE...
YOUNG TAKAO HERE, BELIEVED LOST, HAS COME BACK TO US WITHOUT A SCRATCH.
HE WAS THROWN FROM THE CAR INTO THE RIVER, BUT HE WAS MIRACULOUSLY ABLE TO SWIM TO SHORE, WHERE HE BECAME LOST AND WANDERED IN THE MOUNTAINS...
B-BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE!
TAKAO WAS SAVED BY THE ROBOT DRIVER!
SHAD-DUP, RO-BOT!

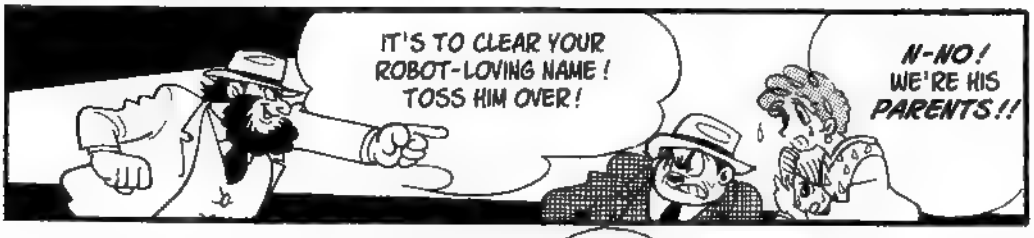
BUT YOU'VE GOTTA TELL THE TRUTH!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, ROBOT!
TAKAO... DID YOU REALLY SAVE YOURSELF?
UM, ER... I THINK SO...
GOSH, HE SURE IS IN GOOD CONDITION FOR HAVING WANDERED IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR DAYS...
HASN'T LOST ANY WEIGHT... WONDER WHAT HE ATE ALL THAT TIME?
HOW COULD A LITTLE KID'VE PULLED HIMSELF OUT OF THAT CURRENT...?
GENTLEMEN... HE DRANK MUDDY WATER AND ATE GRASS AND SCRAMBLED THROUGH THE BRUSH, BUT HE NEVER GAVE UP!
TAKAO... CHECK THIS OUT...
SPROING
THIS MAKE YOU REMEMBER ANY-THING?
YEAH! I REMEMBER NOW!
I FORGOTTED IT BEFORE!
I WAS INSIDE THE ROBOT!
THE ROBOT LOST HIS HEAD ...


I COULD BREATHE INSIDE THE ROBOT, AND GAVE ME FOOD, TOO!
AND THIS GUY HERE HELPED ME GET OUT!
SO YOU WERE SAVED BY A ROBOT?
UM, YEAH...
YOU'RE SURE OF THIS?
YEAH ...
RRRRR....
I CAN'T STAND IT!!
DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD, DEAR...
HE RUINED EVERYTHING! WE'RE FINISHED!!
I'M GLAD IT ALL WORKED OUT, TAKAO... TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
YOU, TOO, ASTRO... DON'T EVER BREAK DOWN, OKAY?
SO YOU SEE, MR. DRIVER... YOUR SACRIFICE WASN'T IN VAIN!


....
....
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, DEAR...
DONE? HAH! NO WAY!
WAIT'LL MY "FRIENDS" FIND OUT THAT MY OWN SON WAS SAVED BY A ROBOT.
WE'LL BE DOOMED!
YOU SHOULD TELL INSPECTOR TAWASHI, DEAR...
FORGET IT!... THESE PARTY MEMBERS ARE REAL TOUGH COOKIES!
SCREECH
SCREECH
ALL RIGHT MR. P.K.YUNI! OUT OF THE CAR!
YOU BETRAYED US!!
YOUR NAME'LL BE ERASED FROM THE PARTY MEMBER LIST!

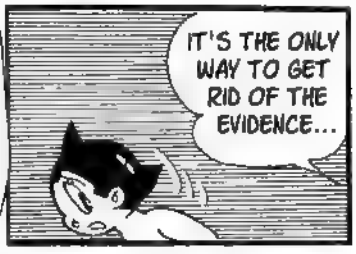

QUITE A FIX YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF IN, MR. P. K. YUNI...
SO YOUR SON WAS SAVED BY A ROBOT, EH?
FRANKLY, I'D BE EMBARASSED IF I WERE YOU...
OUR PARTY'S DEDICATED TO KEEPING ROBOTS IN THEIR PLACE, NOT HELPING THEIR CAUSE!
AS PARTY CHAIRMAN, THE EMBARRASSMENT MUST BE UNBEARABLE...
COME ALONG WITH ME, MR. P.K. YUNI...
WE'RE GOING TO REDO THE TAKAO MATTER...
B...BUT WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TO THE SITE OF THE ACCIDENT, WHERE ELSE?
WE'RE GONNA SEND THE BOY INTO THE RIVER AGAIN AND SEE IF HE SURVIVES.
IF HE DOES, YOUR NAME'S CLEARED AND OUR PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED.
IF NOT, IT'LL JUST BE ANOTHER ACCIDENT...
B...BUT THAT'S CRAZY! YOU'LL KILL TAKAO!
IF WE DON'T DO THIS, YOUR NAME'LL BE RUINED FOREVER!

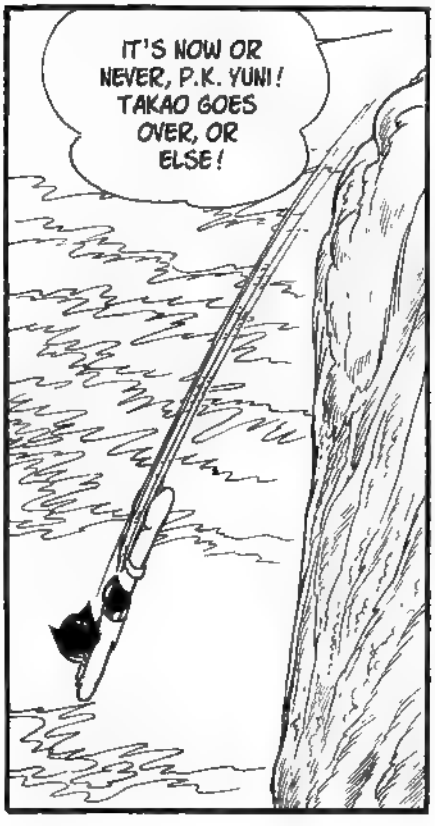

BUT YOU CAN'T TOSS TAKAO OFF THIS CLIFF!
WHY NOT? ON THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT THE WHOLE CAR WENT OVER. THIS OUGHTA BE EASIER!


IT'S TO CLEAR YOUR ROBOT-LOVING NAME! TOSS HIM OVER!
N-NO! WE'RE HIS PARENTS!!

IF YOU DON'T, HE'LL MEET A WORSE FATE!

WE'LL MAKE YOU ABANDON HIM IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR AFRICA!

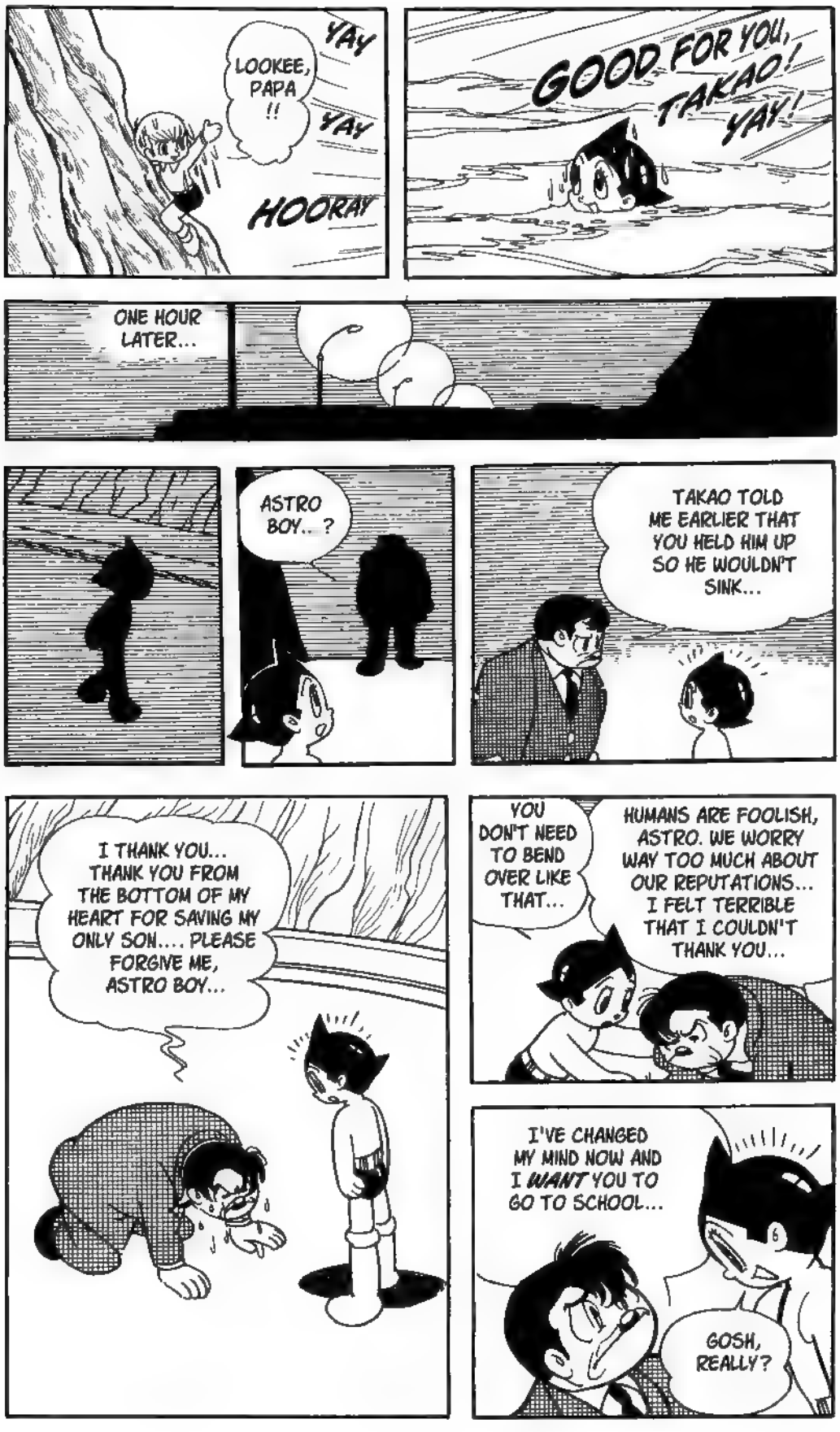

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF THE EVIDENCE...


IT'S NOW OR NEVER, P.K. YUN! TAKAO GOES OVER, OR ELSE!

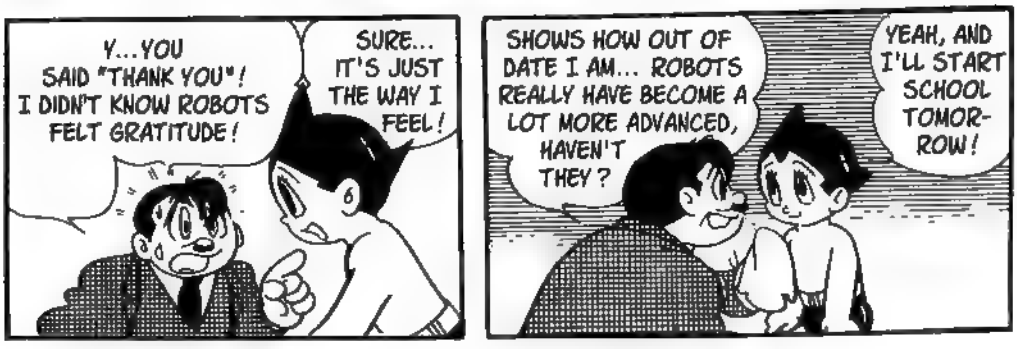
SPLASH

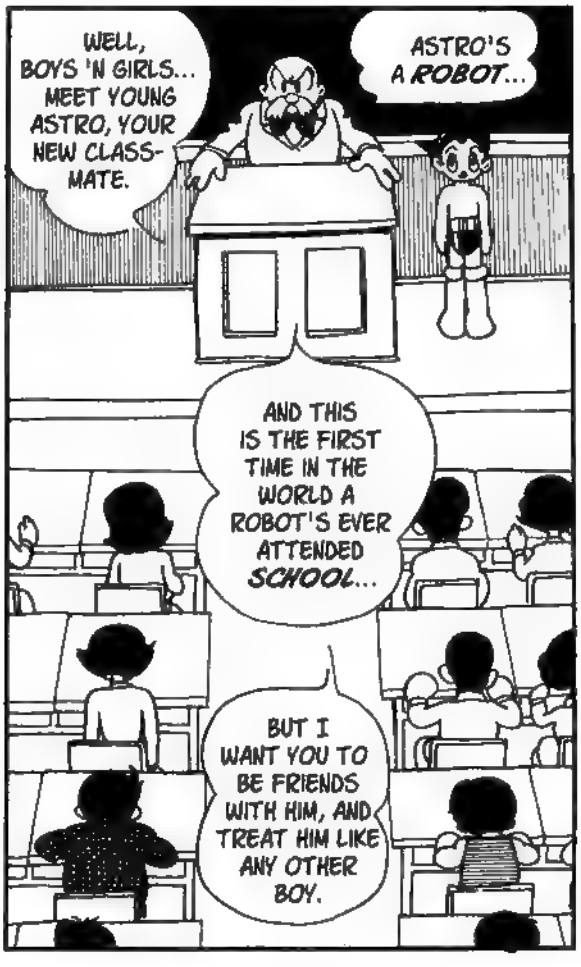
TAKAO! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
DON'T WORRY! HERE I GO!

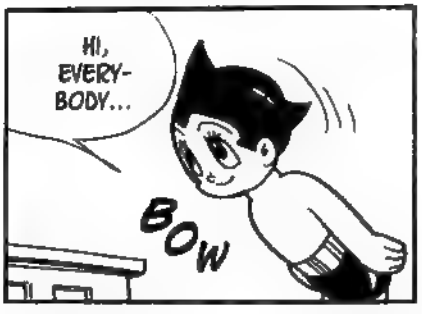
EEEK!!! MY BABY!
GOTCHA!
LISTEN, TAKAO... I'M GONNA SECRETLY HELP YOU, OKAY ...?
PRETEND LIKE YOU'RE SWIMMING, OKAY?
ATTABOY!
SPLISH SPLASH
TAKAO'S SWIMMING AWAY! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
QUITE A BOY YOU'VE GOT THERE, P. K. YUNI!
I... I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE COULD SWIM!
HE'S REACHED THE OTHER BANK!
WAY TA GO!
AMAZ-ING!

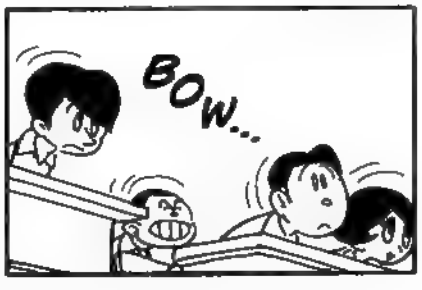

LOOKEE, PAPA !!
YAY
YAY
HOORAY
GOOD FOR YOU, TAKAO!
YAY!
ONE HOUR LATER...
ASTRO BOY..?
TAKAO TOLD ME EARLIER THAT YOU HELD HIM UP SO HE WOULDN'T SINK...
I THANK YOU... THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR SAVING MY ONLY SON.... PLEASE FORGIVE ME, ASTRO BOY...
YOU DON'T NEED TO BEND OVER LIKE THAT...
HUMANS ARE FOOLISH, ASTRO. WE WORRY WAY TOO MUCH ABOUT OUR REPUTATIONS... I FELT TERRIBLE THAT I COULDN'T THANK YOU...
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND NOW AND I *WANT* YOU TO GO TO SCHOOL...
GOSH, REALLY?

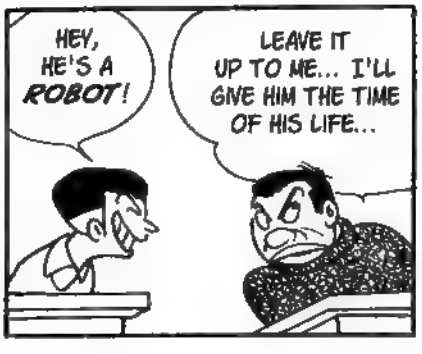
CAN I REALLY GO TO SCHOOL!?
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU CAN... IF ANYONE PROTESTS, LET ME TALK TO 'EM...
THAT'S THE BEST WAY FOR ME TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU...
THANK YOU, MISTER!

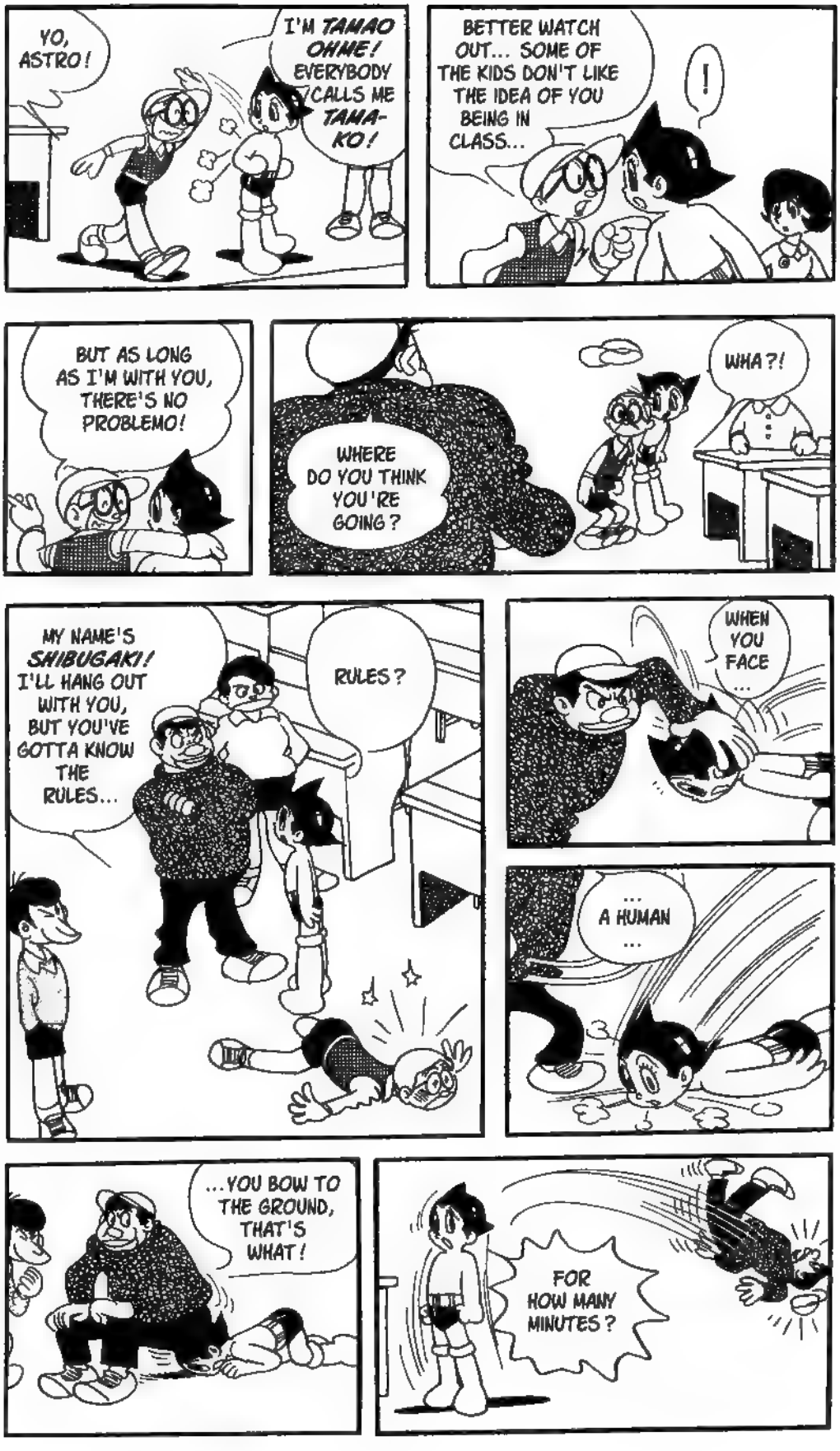

Y...YOU SAID "THANK YOU"! I DIDN'T KNOW ROBOTS FELT GRATITUDE!
SURE... IT'S JUST THE WAY I FEEL!
SHOWS HOW OUT OF DATE I AM... ROBOTS REALLY HAVE BECOME A LOT MORE ADVANCED, HAVEN'T THEY?
YEAH, AND I'LL START SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW!

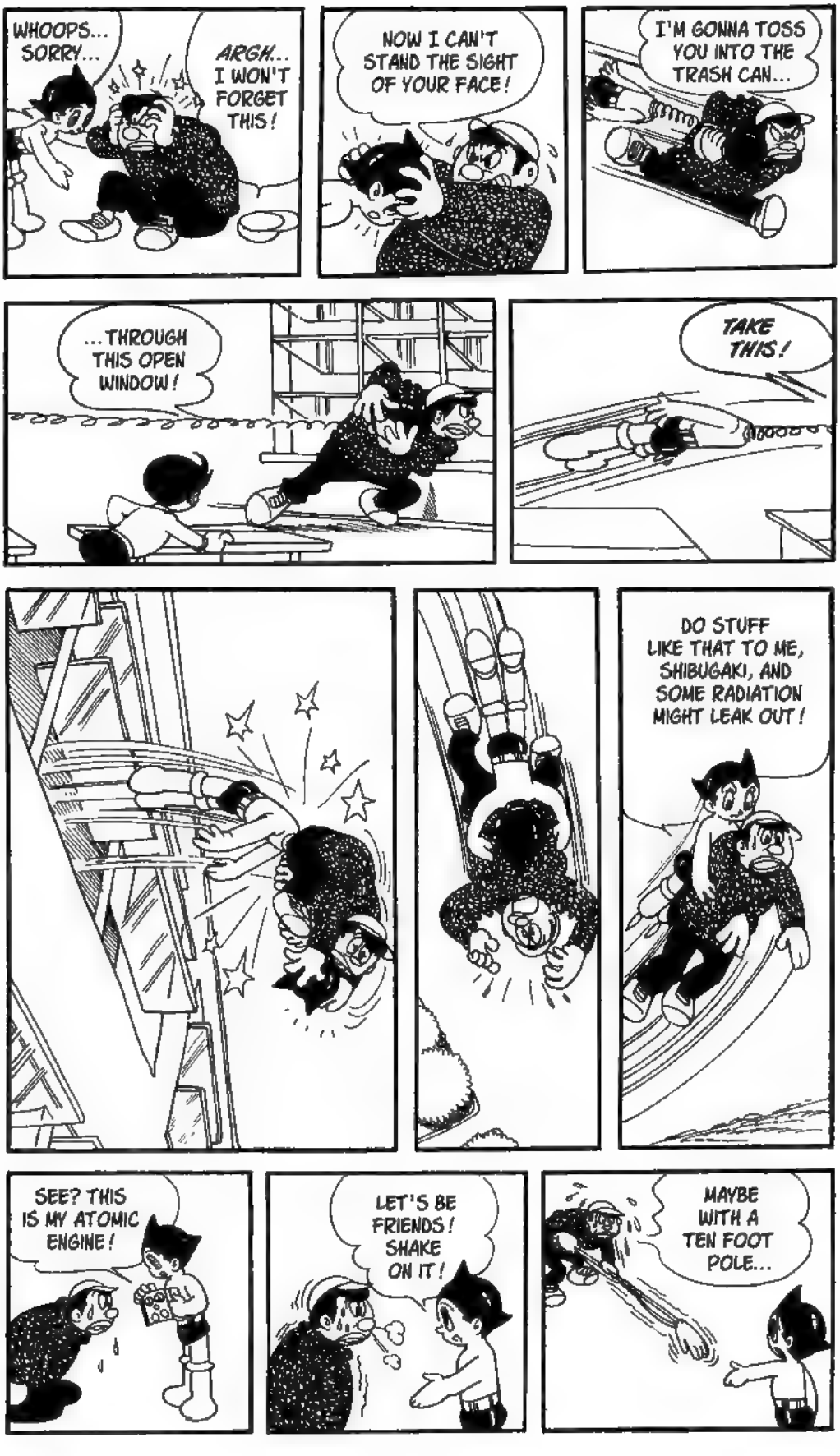

WELL, BOYS 'N GIRLS... MEET YOUNG ASTRO, YOUR NEW CLASS-MATE.
ASTRO'S A ROBOT...
AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN THE WORLD A ROBOT'S EVER ATTENDED SCHOOL...
BUT I WANT YOU TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIM, AND TREAT HIM LIKE ANY OTHER BOY.


HI, EVERY-BODY...
BOW

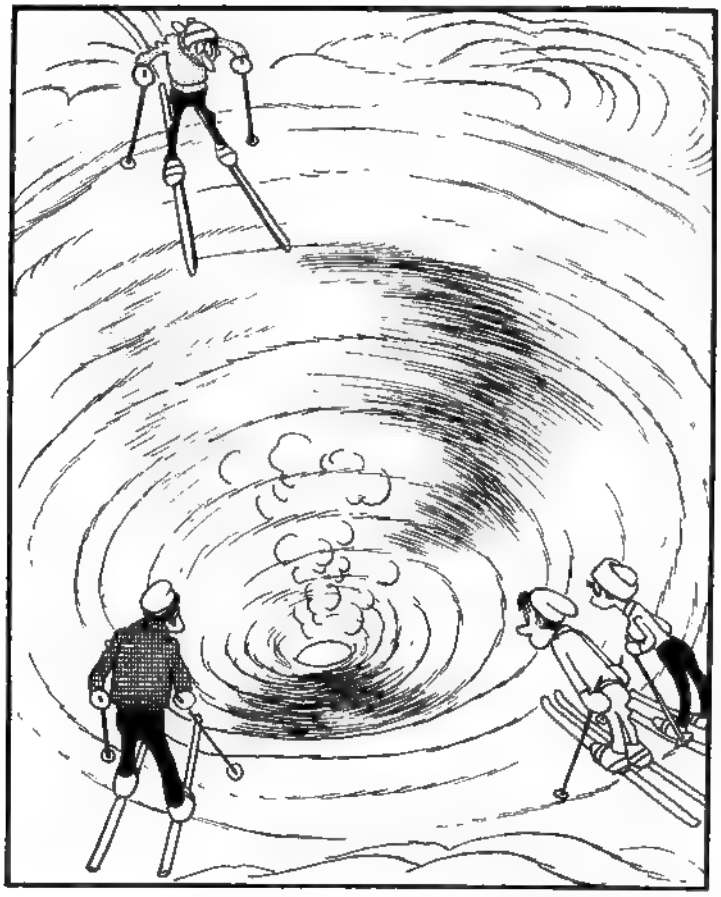

BOW...


HEY, HE'S A ROBOT!
LEAVE IT UP TO ME... I'LL GIVE HIM THE TIME OF HIS LIFE...


YO, ASTRO!
I'M TAMAO OHME! EVERYBODY CALLS ME TAMA-KO!
BETTER WATCH OUT... SOME OF THE KIDS DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU BEING IN CLASS...
!
BUT AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU, THERE'S NO PROBLEMO!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
WHA?!
MY NAME'S SHIBUGAKI! I'LL HANG OUT WITH YOU, BUT YOU'VE GOTTA KNOW THE RULES...
RULES?
WHEN YOU FACE ...
... A HUMAN ...
...YOU BOW TO THE GROUND, THAT'S WHAT!
FOR HOW MANY MINUTES?

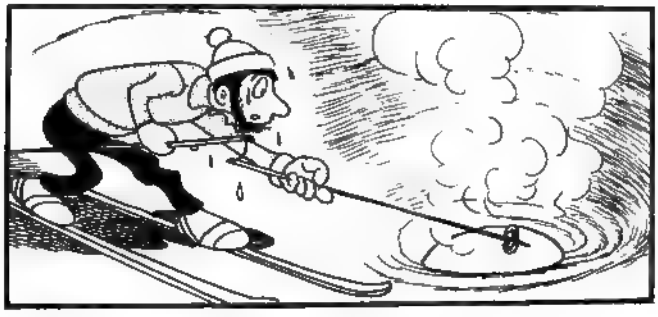

WHOOPS... SORRY...
ARGH... I WON'T FORGET THIS!
NOW I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF YOUR FACE!
I'M GONNA TOSS YOU INTO THE TRASH CAN...
...THROUGH THIS OPEN WINDOW!
TAKE THIS!
DO STUFF LIKE THAT TO ME, SHIBUGAKI, AND SOME RADIATION MIGHT LEAK OUT!
SEE? THIS IS MY ATOMIC ENGINE!
LET'S BE FRIENDS! SHAKE ON IT!
MAYBE WITH A TEN FOOT POLE...

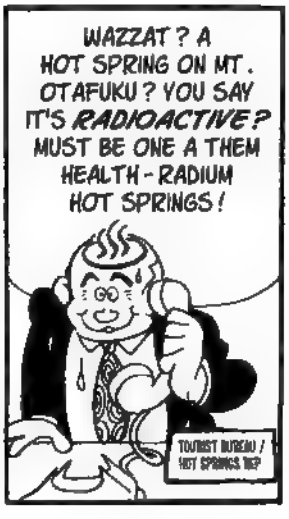
GONE WITH THE SNOW



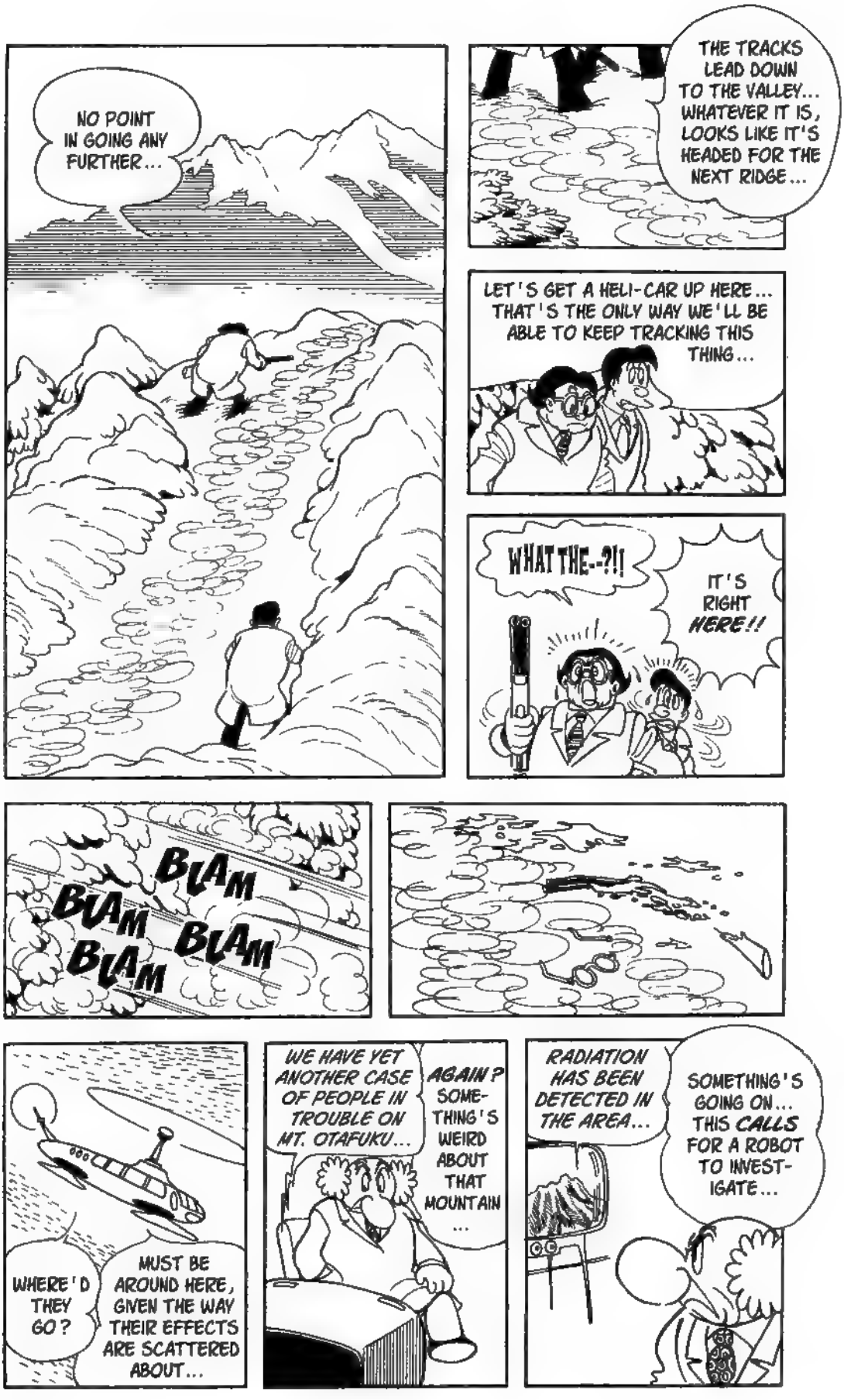
AT MT. OTAFUKU'S NISHIDAIRA, A FAMOUS SKI RESORT IN THE HOKURIKU AREA OF JAPAN, THE SLOPES ARE CROWDED WITH PEOPLE FROM THE CITY. ONE GROUP OF FRIENDS DISCOVERS A STRANGE PHENOMENON. IN ONE VALLEY, THE SNOW IS NEATLY MELTED IN A BOWLSHAPED DEPRESSION.

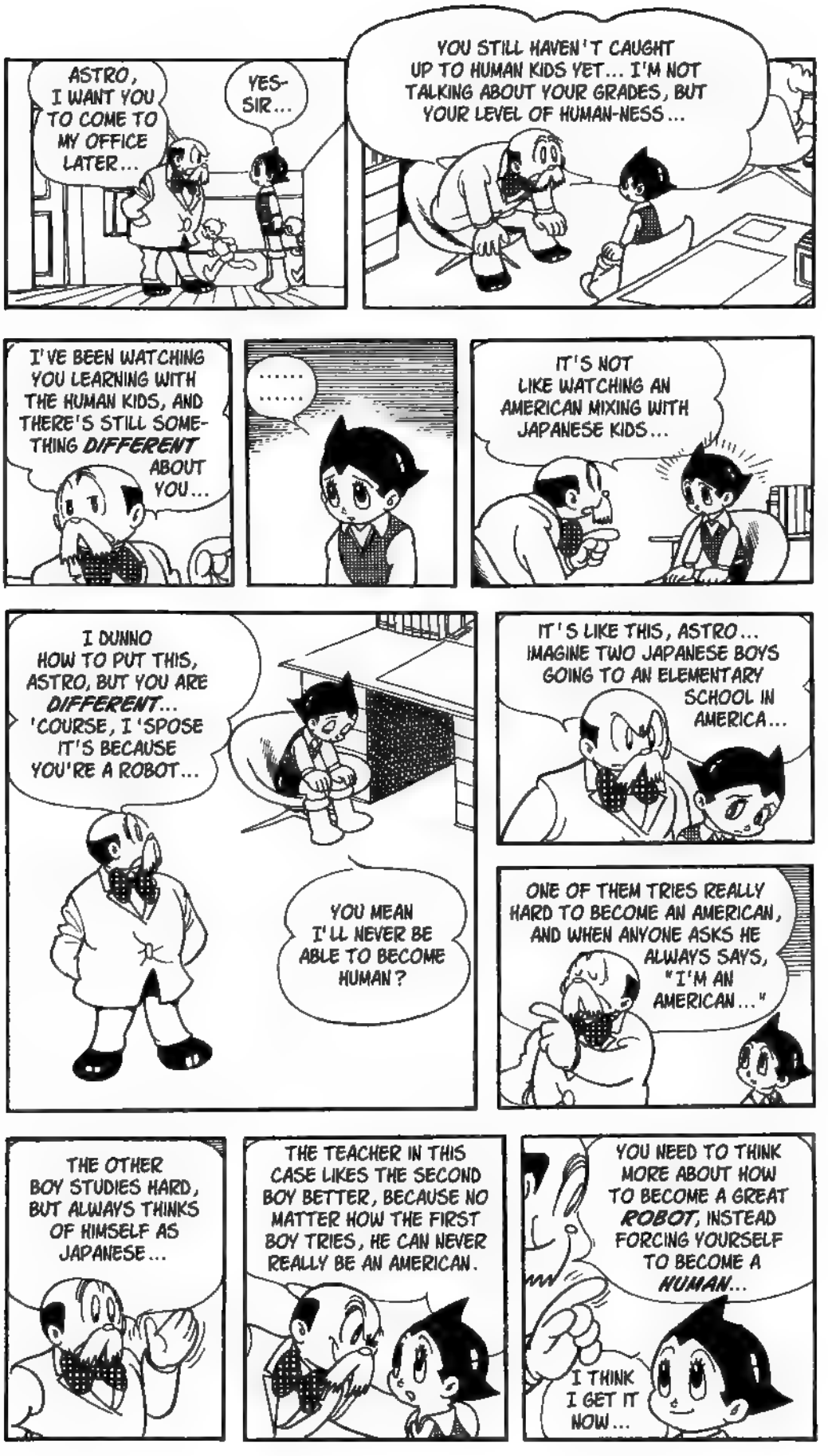
NORMALLY THIS ALONE WOULDN'T HAVE SEEMED SO ODD, BUT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BOWL THERE WAS A ROUND LENS-LIKE, SHINING OBJECT...

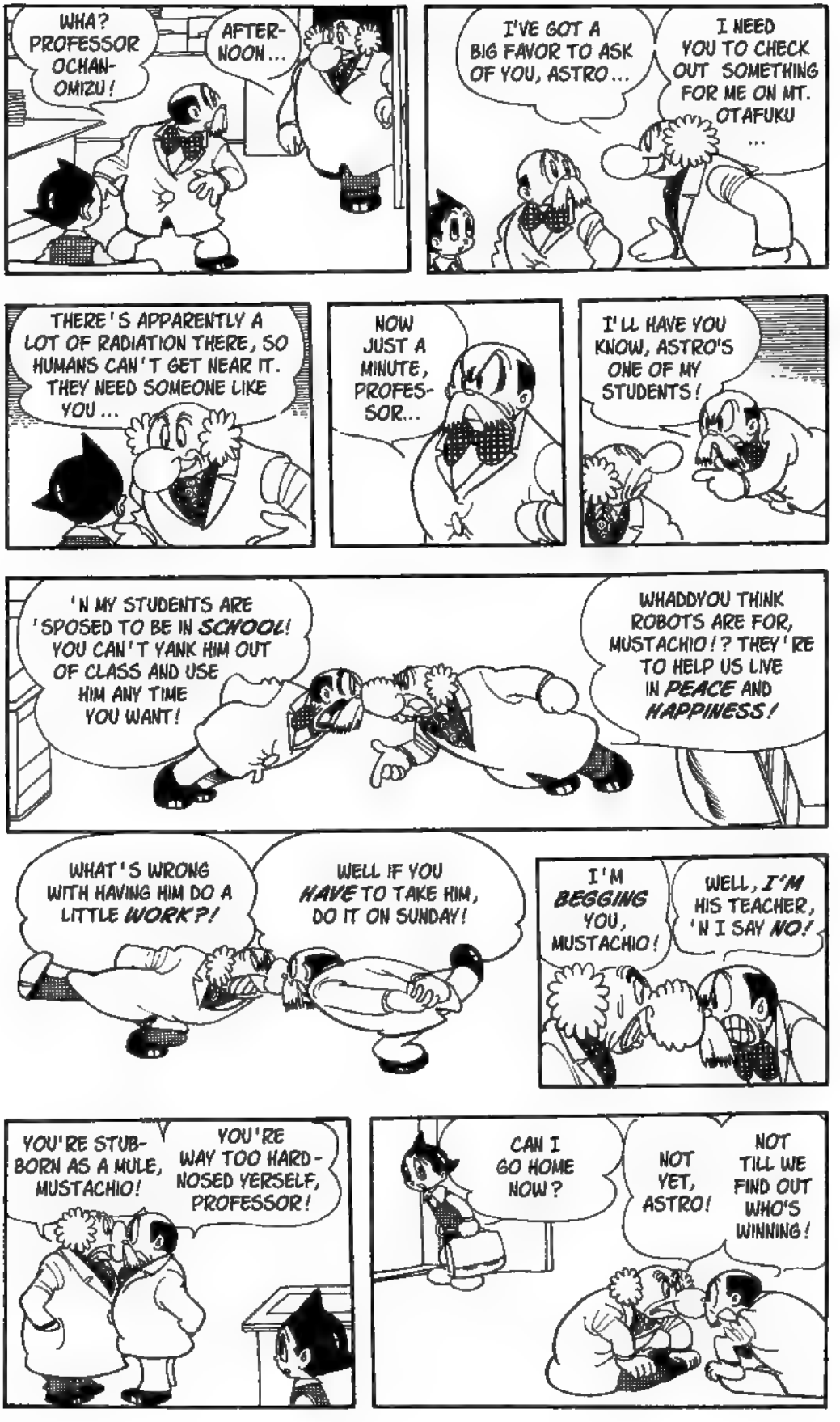



WAZZAT? A HOT SPRING ON MT. OTAFUKU? YOU SAY IT'S *RADIOACTIVE?* MUST BE ONE A THEM HEALTH-RADIUM HOT SPRINGS!
TOURIST BUREAU / HOT SPRINGS TRIP

WE NEED MORE INFORMATION, MISTER... DON'T JUST TELL US IT'S A NEW HOT SPRING...
WE HEAR RUMORS THAT A DUD ATOMIC BOMB FELL THERE...
PLEASE, GENTLEMEN... WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED YET, SO I'VE NOTHING TO ANNOUNCE...
VOOSH
THIS IS NO HOT SPRING! SOMETHING WHITE HOT'S IN THE CENTER, AND IT'S MELTING THE SNOW AND CONVERTING IT TO WATER...
GUESS WE'LL KNOW WHAT IT IS WHEN THE INVESTIGATORS GET HERE...
PRO-FESSOR! COME QUICK!
LOOK! SOMETHING CAME OUT OF THE HOLE!
IT LEFT FOOT-PRINTS IN THE SNOW!
MUST'VE COME RIGHT OUT OF THE STEAM AND WANDERED OFF...
CAN'T BE HUMAN OR ANIMAL...
LET'S TRACK IT...


NO POINT IN GOING ANY FURTHER...
THE TRACKS LEAD DOWN TO THE VALLEY... WHATEVER IT IS, LOOKS LIKE IT'S HEADED FOR THE NEXT RIDGE...
LET'S GET A HELI-CAR UP HERE... THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP TRACKING THIS THING...
WHAT THE--?!!
IT'S RIGHT HERE!!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
WHERE'D THEY GO?
MUST BE AROUND HERE, GIVEN THE WAY THEIR EFFECTS ARE SCATTERED ABOUT...
WE HAVE YET ANOTHER CASE OF PEOPLE IN TROUBLE ON MT. OTAFUKU...
AGAIN? SOMETHING'S WEIRD ABOUT THAT MOUNTAIN...
RADIATION HAS BEEN DETECTED IN THE AREA...
SOMETHING'S GOING ON... THIS CALLS FOR A ROBOT TO INVESTIGATE...

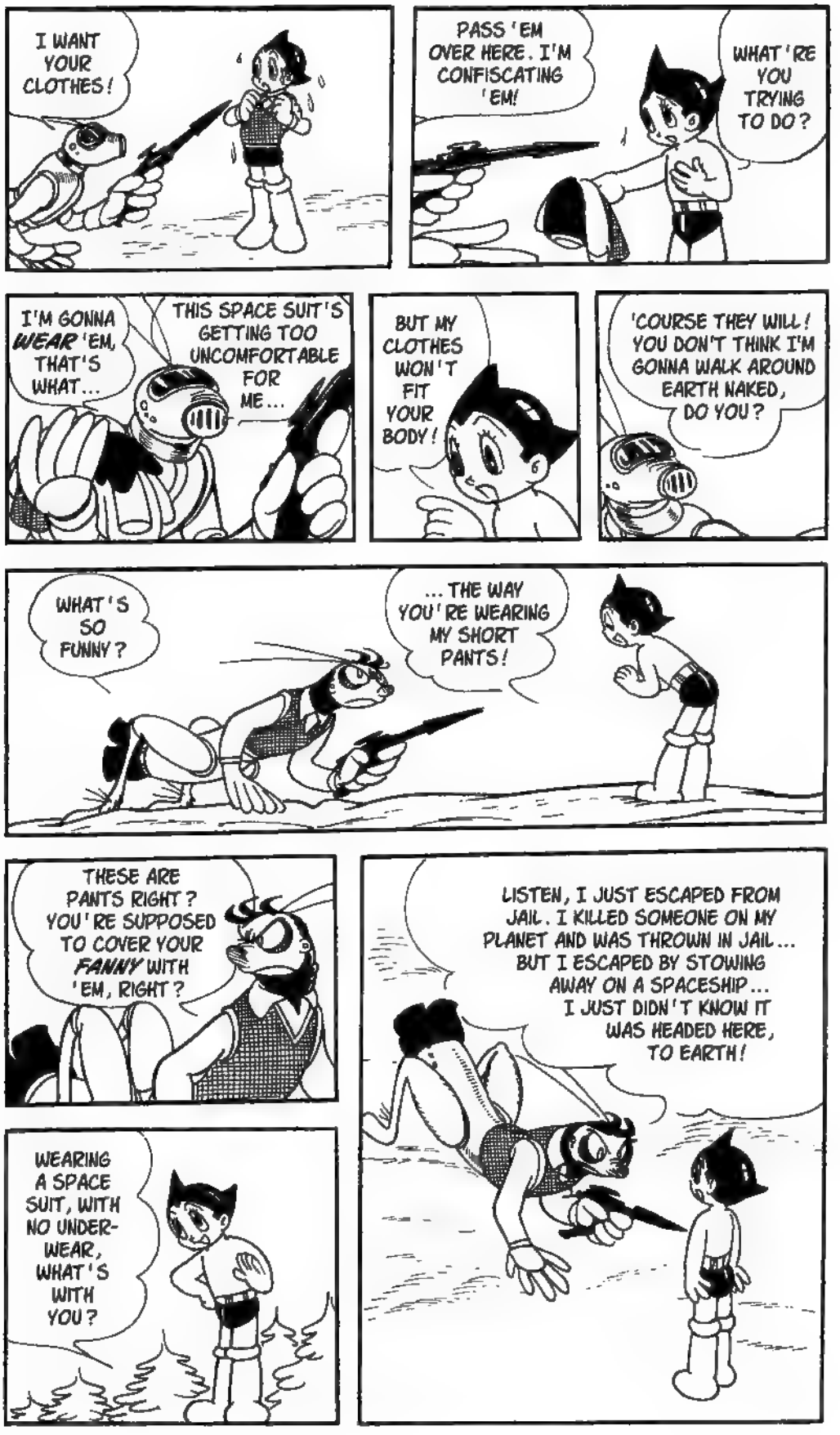

ASTRO, I WANT YOU TO COME TO MY OFFICE LATER...
YES-SIR...
YOU STILL HAVEN'T CAUGHT UP TO HUMAN KIDS YET... I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT YOUR GRADES, BUT YOUR LEVEL OF HUMAN-NESS...
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU LEARNING WITH THE HUMAN KIDS, AND THERE'S STILL SOMETHING *DIFFERENT* ABOUT YOU...
.....
.....
IT'S NOT LIKE WATCHING AN AMERICAN MIXING WITH JAPANESE KIDS...
I DUNNO HOW TO PUT THIS, ASTRO, BUT YOU ARE *DIFFERENT*... 'COURSE, I 'SPOSE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A ROBOT...
YOU MEAN I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BECOME HUMAN?
IT'S LIKE THIS, ASTRO... IMAGINE TWO JAPANESE BOYS GOING TO AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN AMERICA...
ONE OF THEM TRIES REALLY HARD TO BECOME AN AMERICAN, AND WHEN ANYONE ASKS HE ALWAYS SAYS, "I'M AN AMERICAN..."
THE OTHER BOY STUDIES HARD, BUT ALWAYS THINKS OF HIMSELF AS JAPANESE...
THE TEACHER IN THIS CASE LIKES THE SECOND BOY BETTER, BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW THE FIRST BOY TRIES, HE CAN NEVER REALLY BE AN AMERICAN.
YOU NEED TO THINK MORE ABOUT HOW TO BECOME A GREAT *ROBOT*, INSTEAD FORCING YOURSELF TO BECOME A *HUMAN*...
I THINK I GET IT NOW...

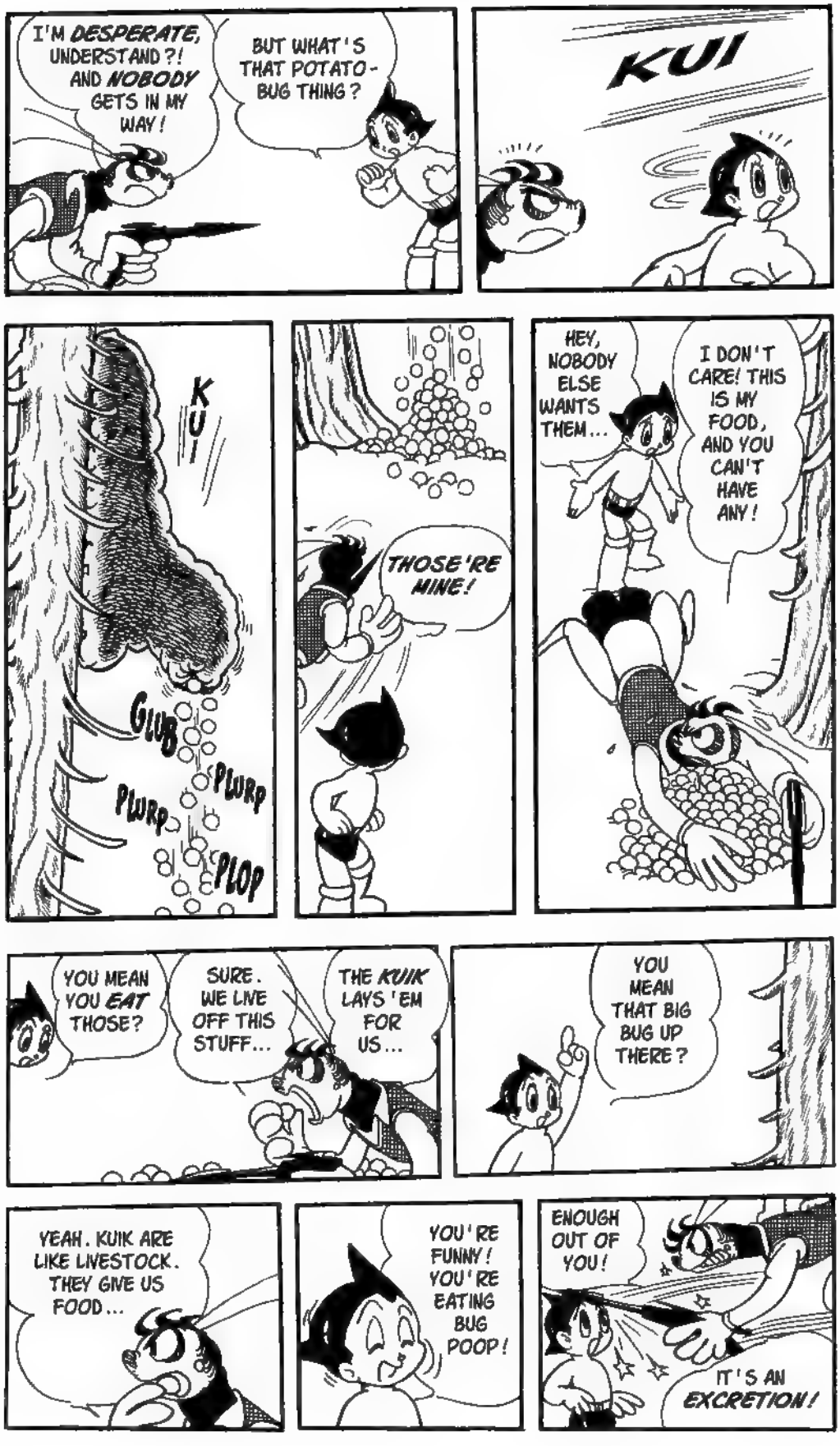

WHA? PROFESSOR OCHAN-OMIZU!
AFTER-NOON...
I'VE GOT A BIG FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU, ASTRO...
I NEED YOU TO CHECK OUT SOMETHING FOR ME ON MT. OTAFUKU ...
THERE'S APPARENTLY A LOT OF RADIATION THERE, SO HUMANS CAN'T GET NEAR IT. THEY NEED SOMEONE LIKE YOU...
NOW JUST A MINUTE, PROFES-SOR...
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, ASTRO'S ONE OF MY STUDENTS!
'N MY STUDENTS ARE 'SPOSED TO BE IN SCHOOL! YOU CAN'T YANK HIM OUT OF CLASS AND USE HIM ANY TIME YOU WANT!
WHADDYOU THINK ROBOTS ARE FOR, MUSTACHIO!? THEY'RE TO HELP US LIVE IN PEACE AND HAPPINESS!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HAVING HIM DO A LITTLE WORK?!
WELL IF YOU HAVE TO TAKE HIM, DO IT ON SUNDAY!
I'M BEGGING YOU, MUSTACHIO!
WELL, I'M HIS TEACHER, 'N I SAY NO!
YOU'RE STUB-BORN AS A MULE, MUSTACHIO!
YOU'RE WAY TOO HARD-NOSED YERSELF, PROFESSOR!
CAN I GO HOME NOW?
NOT YET, ASTRO!
NOT TILL WE FIND OUT WHO'S WINNING!

WAS TEACHER ANGRY AT YOU, ASTRO?
NAW, HE WASN'T ANGRY...
BUT YOU LOOK KINDA DOWN ...
I'M A ROBOT... HOW CAN YOU TELL?
I CAN TELL... MY DAD'S AN ELECTRICIAN... HE CAN TELL IF SOMETHING'S NOT WORKING RIGHT WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT IT...
WELL, SOME PEOPLE HAVE DISAPPEARED IN THE MOUNTAINS...
AND SINCE I'M A ROBOT ...
... I FEEL LIKE I OUGHTA GO HELP 'EM...
...BUT I'VE GOTTA GO TO SCHOOL, TOO...
TEACHER WANTS ME TO STAY...
...BUT PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU SAYS I HAVE TO GO.
HERE'S WHAT I THINK... YOU'VE GOTTA GO HELP, ASTRO. THEY NEED YOUR 100,000 HORSEPOWER! DON'T WORRY ABOUT SCHOOL...
I BET TEACHER'D UNDERSTAND...
GOSH, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, KEN!
I'M OFF TO MT. OTAFUKU!
WOW! THAT WAS FAST!

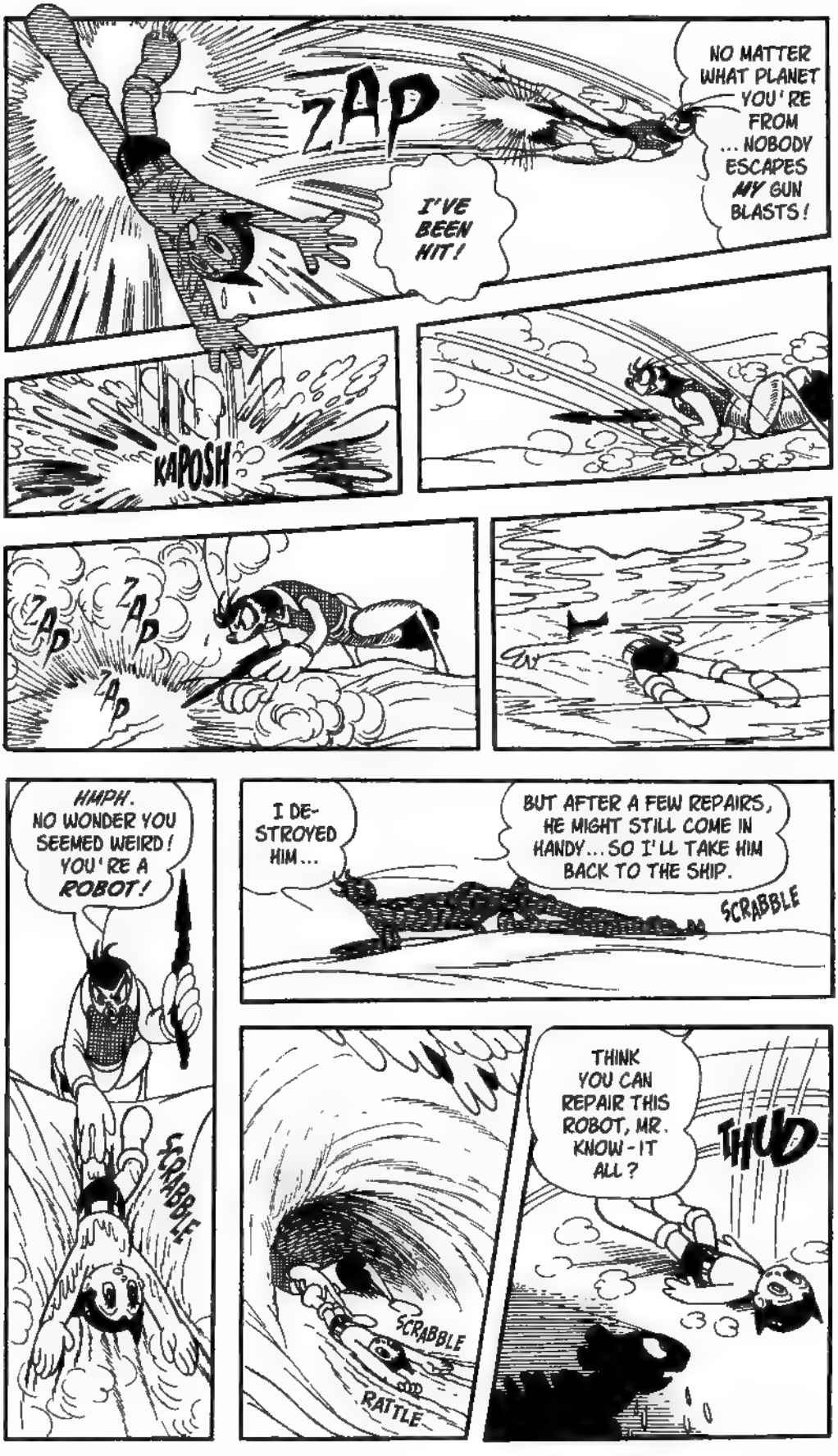
HERE WE ARE AT THE SENJIN VALLEY NEAR MT. OTAFUKU ... THIS IS WHERE THE LATEST DISAPPEARANCE TOOK PLACE...
ACCORDING TO THE NEWS-PAPER...
'STRANGE FOOT-STEPS WERE FOUND HERE...
... BUT THEY DISAPPEARED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE VALLEY.
HASN'T BEEN ANY NEW SNOW RECENTLY, SO ANY FOOTSTEPS OUGHTA STILL BE AROUND... SO HOW COME I DON'T SEE ANY?
HMM... LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF POOP...
WHA?!
THAT TREE THERE'S LOST ALL OF ITS NEEDLES!
SOMETHING WEIRD'S STUCK TO IT!

LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF A BUG... A HUGE BUG...
WOW! THIS IS NO EARTH BUG!
IT DOESN'T MOVE AT ALL... ALMOST LIKE IT'S DEAD ...
DON'T TOUCH THAT!
WHO'RE YOU?!
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. THAT'S MY LIVESTOCK! TOUCH IT AND I'LL ZAP YOU...
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE A LOCUST... IN A SPACE SUIT!
YOU LOOK LIKE A LO-CUST!
WHAT'D YOU CALL ME?!
LISTEN, YOU WEIRDO HUMAN... WATCH YOUR TONGUE, OR ELSE!

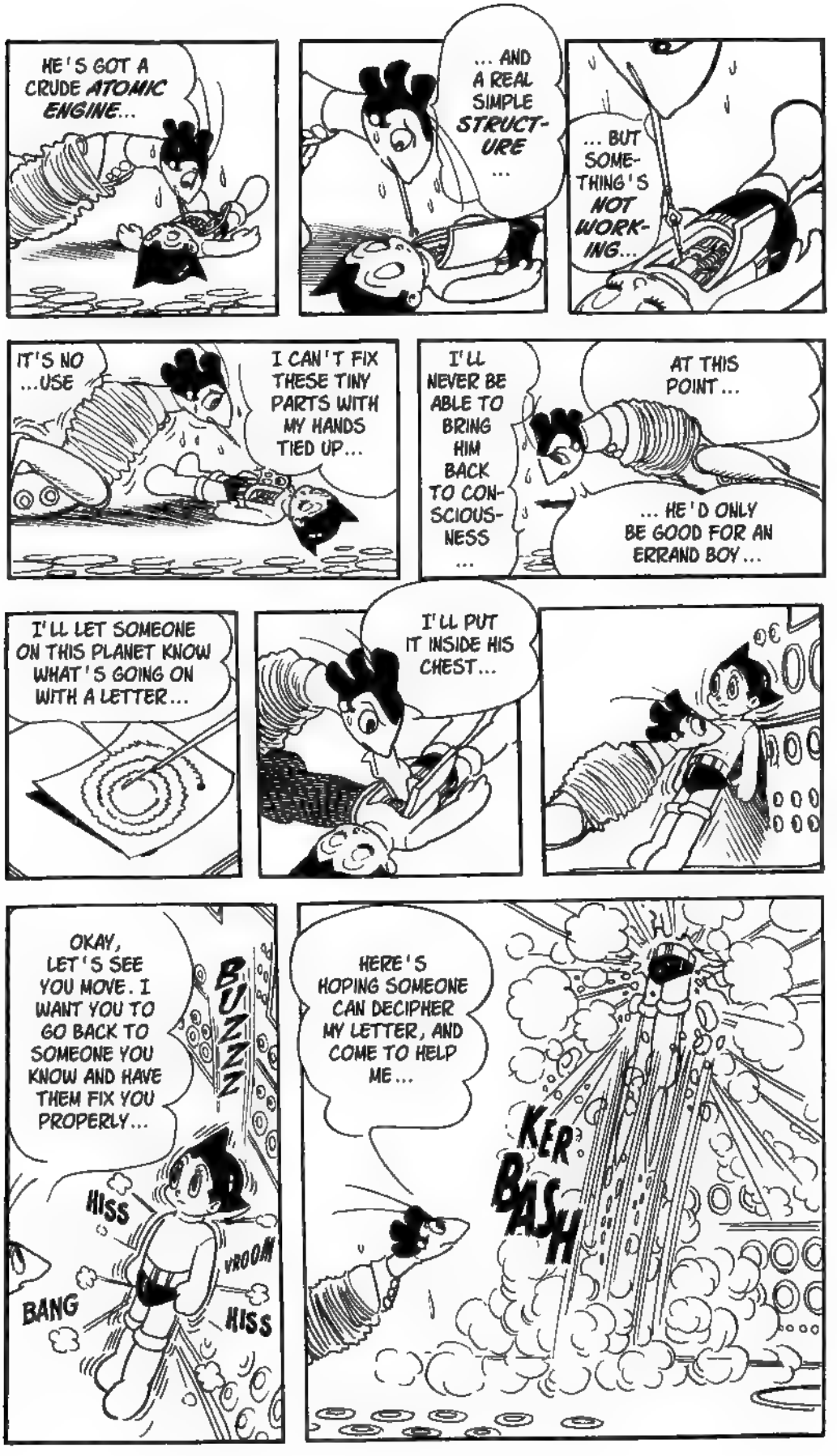

I WANT YOUR CLOTHES!
PASS 'EM OVER HERE. I'M CONFISCATING 'EM!
WHAT 'RE YOU TRYING TO DO?
I'M GONNA WEAR 'EM, THAT'S WHAT...
THIS SPACE SUIT'S GETTING TOO UNCOMFORTABLE FOR ME...
BUT MY CLOTHES WON'T FIT YOUR BODY!
'COURSE THEY WILL! YOU DON'T THINK I'M GONNA WALK AROUND EARTH NAKED, DO YOU?
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
... THE WAY YOU'RE WEARING MY SHORT PANTS!
THESE ARE PANTS RIGHT? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO COVER YOUR FANNY WITH 'EM, RIGHT?
LISTEN, I JUST ESCAPED FROM JAIL. I KILLED SOMEONE ON MY PLANET AND WAS THROWN IN JAIL... BUT I ESCAPED BY STOWING AWAY ON A SPACESHIP... I JUST DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS HEADED HERE, TO EARTH!
WEARING A SPACE SUIT, WITH NO UNDER-WEAR, WHAT'S WITH YOU?

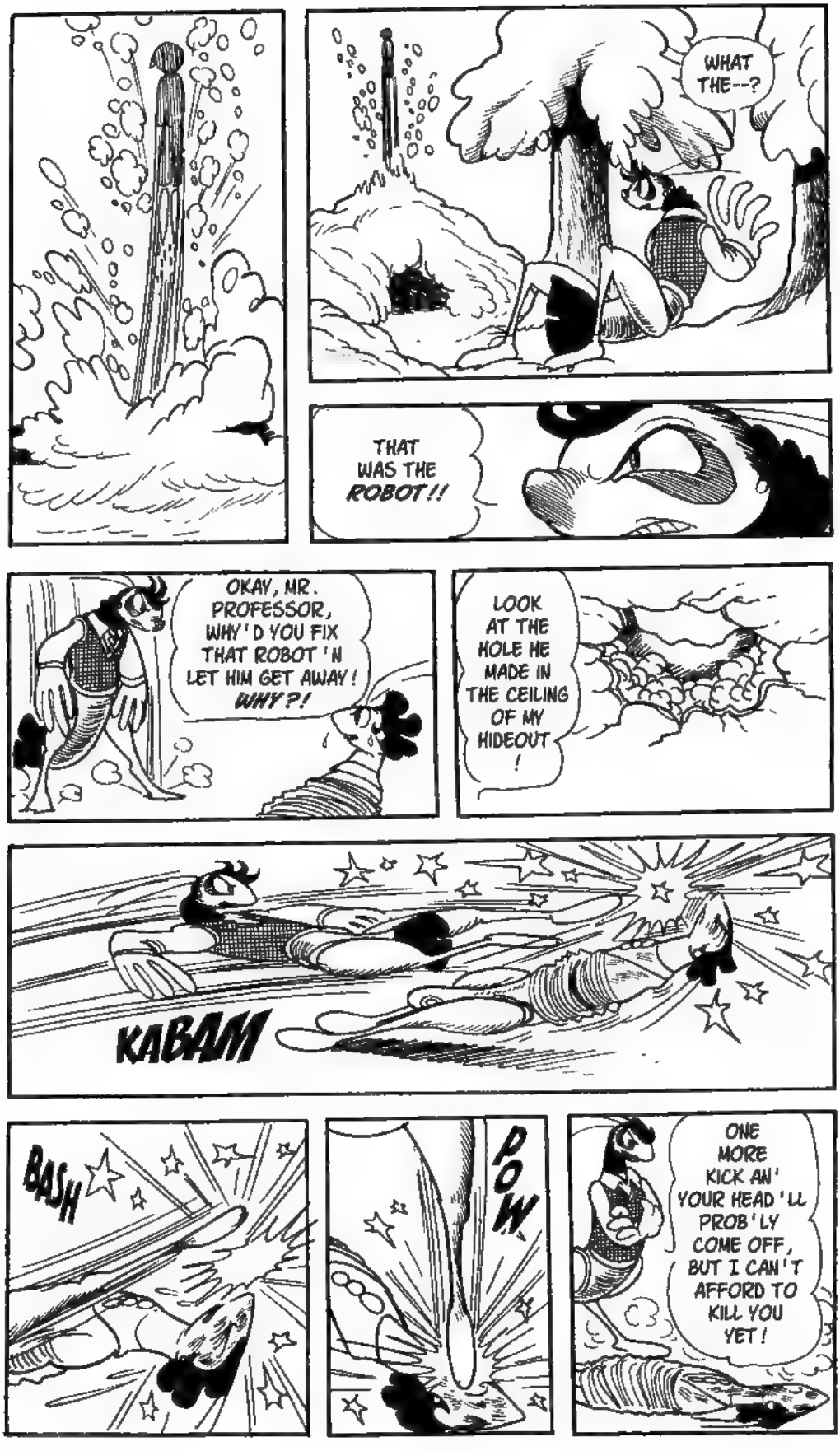

I'M DESPERATE, UNDERSTAND?! AND NOBODY GETS IN MY WAY!
BUT WHAT'S THAT POTATO-BUG THING?
KUI
KUI
GLUB
PLURP
PLURP
PLOP
THOSE'RE MINE!
HEY, NOBODY ELSE WANTS THEM...
I DON'T CARE! THIS IS MY FOOD, AND YOU CAN'T HAVE ANY!
YOU MEAN YOU EAT THOSE?
SURE. WE LIVE OFF THIS STUFF...
THE KUIK LAYS 'EM FOR US...
YOU MEAN THAT BIG BUG UP THERE?
YEAH. KUIK ARE LIKE LIVESTOCK. THEY GIVE US FOOD...
YOU'RE FUNNY! YOU'RE EATING BUG POOP!
ENOUGH OUT OF YOU!
IT'S AN EXCRETION!

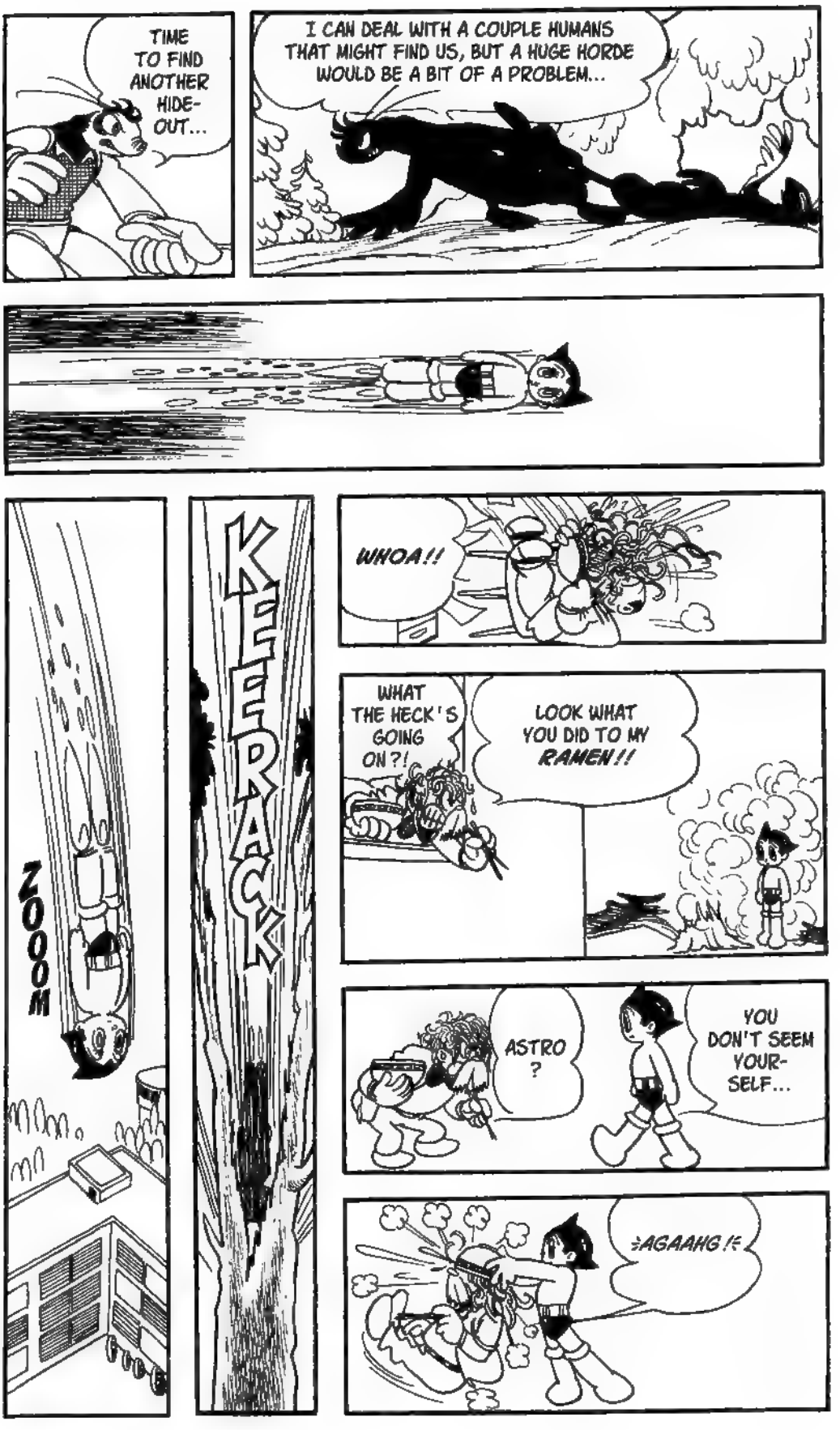
CHOMP
CHOMP
WOW, THAT THING SURE HAS AN APPETITE... DID IT STRIP ALL THESE TREES?
SURE. HE CAN GO THROUGH ALL THESE IN TWO OR THREE MINUTES...
HE'S A HUNGRY FELLA, AND I NEED TO KEEP HIM WELL FED, SO THIS IS A GREAT PLACE...
YOU OUGHTA LEAVE WITH THAT INSECT RIGHT AWAY, BEFORE HE EATS THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN!
NOT SO EASY, KID... I LIKE THIS PLANET, AND YOU'LL HAVE TO FORCE ME TO LEAVE...
BUT YOU'D BETTER LEAVE, OR THE ARMY AN' THE POLICE'LL COME AFTER YOU!
TOUGH. I'VE HEARD ENOUGH OUT OF YOU!...
VOOSH
KNOW HOW TO FLY, EH?
ZAP


ZAP
NO MATTER WHAT PLANET YOU'RE FROM ... NOBODY ESCAPES MY GUN BLASTS!
I'VE BEEN HIT!
KAPOSH
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
HMPH. NO WONDER YOU SEEMED WEIRD! YOU'RE A ROBOT!
SCRABBLE
I DE-STROYED HIM...
BUT AFTER A FEW REPAIRS, HE MIGHT STILL COME IN HANDY... SO I'LL TAKE HIM BACK TO THE SHIP.
SCRABBLE
SCRABBLE
RATTLE
THINK YOU CAN REPAIR THIS ROBOT, MR. KNOW-IT ALL?
THUD

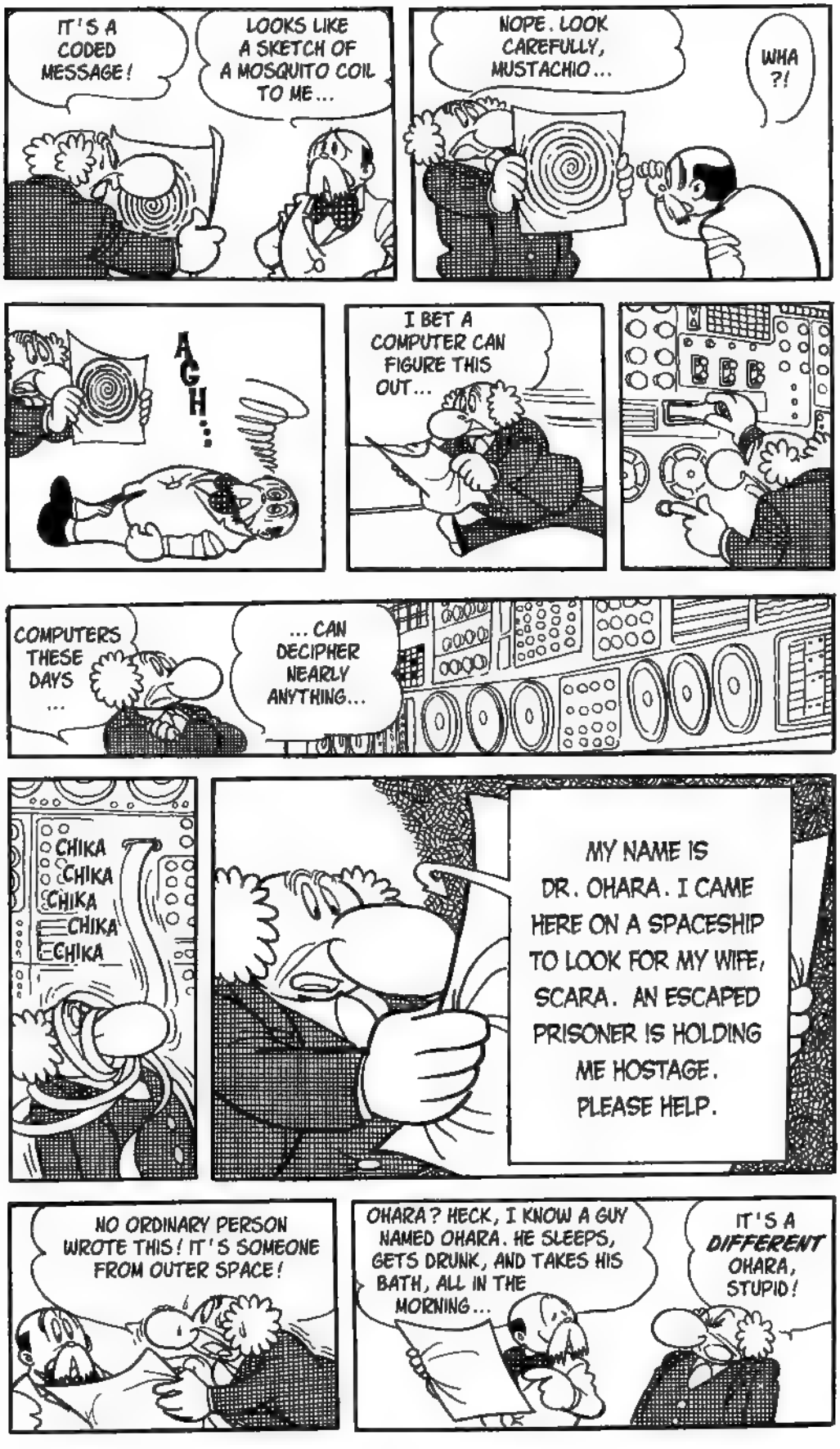
YOU BLASTED JAILBIRD! WHAT'RE YOU DUMPING IN HERE NOW?!
WHAT THE--?
THIS LOOKS LIKE A ROBOT!
WHY THE HECK DID YOU BRING BACK ONE OF THIS PLANET'S ROBOTS? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?!
IT'S FOR YOU TO REPAIR, WHAT ELSE?
WHEN I COME BACK, I WANT HIM TO BE A ROBOT THAT'LL DO AS I SAY!
DON'T TRY ANY TRICKS, OR YOU'LL REGRET IT, PROFESSOR...
HMPH... WHY SHOULD I TURN THIS THING INTO A SLAVE FOR HIM?
STILL, I'D BETTER REPAIR IT BEFORE HE COMES BACK...
ROBOTS ON THIS PLANET SURE ARE PRIMITIVE...
WITH ALL THESE PARTS HERE, I OUGHTA BE ABLE TO FIX HIM SOMEHOW...


HE'S GOT A CRUDE ATOMIC ENGINE...
... AND A REAL SIMPLE STRUCT-URE ...
... BUT SOME-THING'S NOT WORK-ING...
IT'S NO ...USE
I CAN'T FIX THESE TINY PARTS WITH MY HANDS TIED UP...
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BRING HIM BACK TO CON-SCIOUS-NESS ...
AT THIS POINT...
... HE'D ONLY BE GOOD FOR AN ERRAND BOY...
I'LL LET SOMEONE ON THIS PLANET KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH A LETTER...
I'LL PUT IT INSIDE HIS CHEST...
OKAY, LET'S SEE YOU MOVE. I WANT YOU TO GO BACK TO SOMEONE YOU KNOW AND HAVE THEM FIX YOU PROPERLY...
BUZZZ
HISS
VROOM
BANG
HISS
HERE'S HOPING SOMEONE CAN DECIPHER MY LETTER, AND COME TO HELP ME...
KER BASH


WHAT THE--?
THAT WAS THE ROBOT!!
OKAY, MR. PROFESSOR, WHY'D YOU FIX THAT ROBOT 'N LET HIM GET AWAY! WHY?!
LOOK AT THE HOLE HE MADE IN THE CEILING OF MY HIDEOUT!
KABAM
BASH
POW
ONE MORE KICK AN' YOUR HEAD 'LL PROB'LY COME OFF, BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO KILL YOU YET!

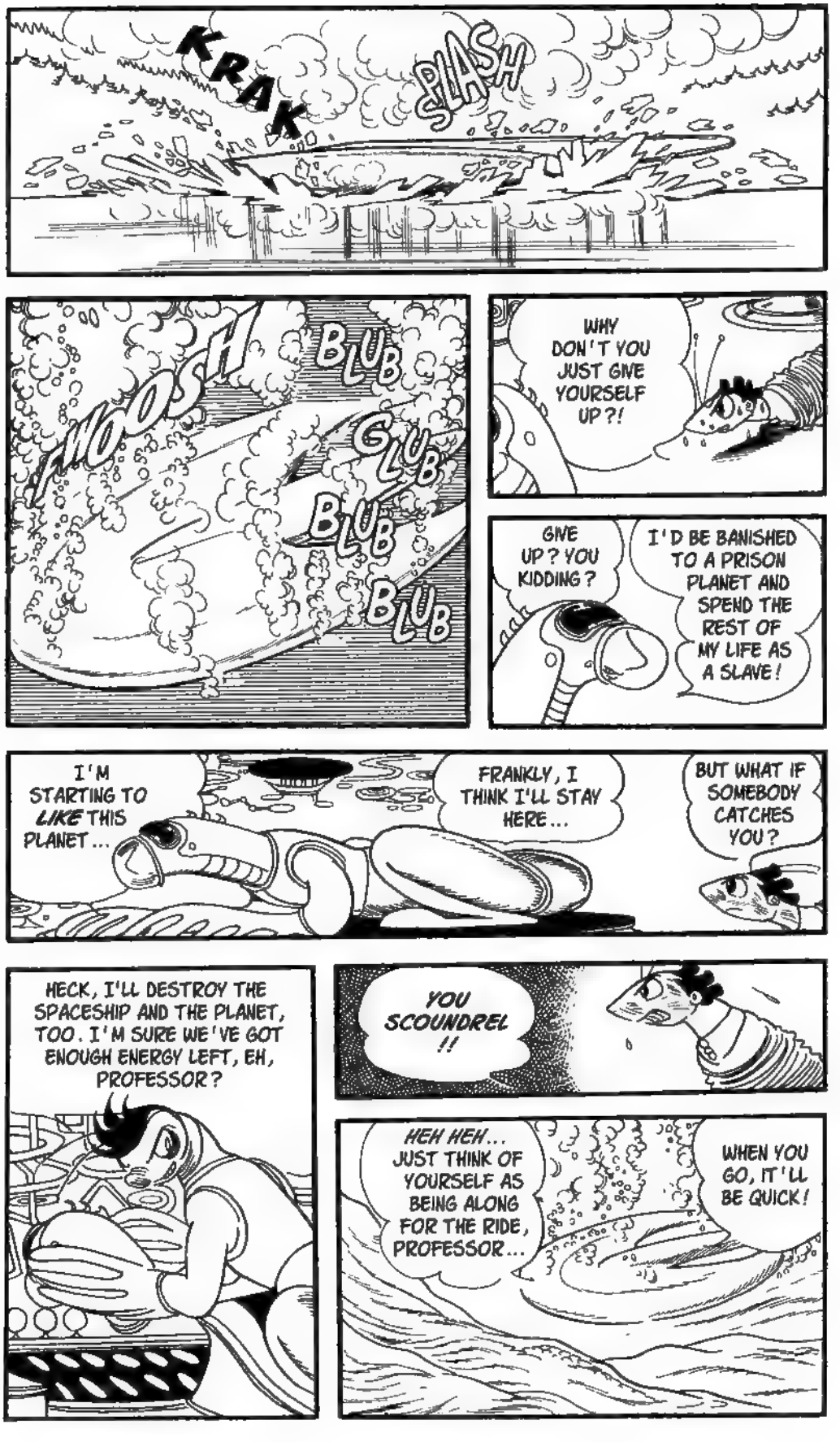

TIME TO FIND ANOTHER HIDE-OUT...
I CAN DEAL WITH A COUPLE HUMANS THAT MIGHT FIND US, BUT A HUGE HORDE WOULD BE A BIT OF A PROBLEM...
WHOA!!
WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON?!
LOOK WHAT YOU DID TO MY RAMEN!!
ASTRO ?
YOU DON'T SEEM YOUR-SELF...
≥AGAAHG!≤
KEERACK
WOOM

HELLO? PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU? ASTRO'S HERE AND HE SEEMS LIKE HE'S MISSING A FEW SCREWS...
THAT'S WHY I WAS AGAINST HIM LEAVING SCHOOL!
MUSTACHIO! IT'S NOT THE SCREWS! 'SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIS MOTION CONTROL CIRCUITS...
WELL, COULD YOU COME OVER HERE AND STOP HIM, PLEEEZE!?
WHERE IS HE!?
OVER THERE, CLEANING HIS BELLY BUTTON...
BELLY BUTTON?! HE'S TRYING TO OPEN HIS CHEST!
ASTRO! WHAT'S WRONG!? MOTION CONTROL CIRCUITS ON THE BLINK?
TAP TAP
MOTION CONTROL? I'D SAY A LITTLE LESS MOTION WOULD HELP!
LOOK'S LIKE ONE OF HIS CIRCUITS HAS BEEN FRIED...
HMM... THERE'S A LETTER IN HERE!
WHAT'S THIS??
THINK SOMEBODY PUT THAT IN THERE AS A HOAX?
NO, LOOK! THIS IS NO ORDINARY LETTER!


IT'S A CODED MESSAGE!
LOOKS LIKE A SKETCH OF A MOSQUITO COIL TO ME...
NOPE. LOOK CAREFULLY, MUSTACHIO...
WHA ?!
AGH...
I BET A COMPUTER CAN FIGURE THIS OUT...
COMPUTERS THESE DAYS ...
... CAN DECIPHER NEARLY ANYTHING...
CHIKA CHIKA CHIKA CHIKA CHIKA
MY NAME IS DR. OHARA. I CAME HERE ON A SPACESHIP TO LOOK FOR MY WIFE, SCARA. AN ESCAPED PRISONER IS HOLDING ME HOSTAGE. PLEASE HELP.
NO ORDINARY PERSON WROTE THIS! IT'S SOMEONE FROM OUTER SPACE!
OHARA? HECK, I KNOW A GUY NAMED OHARA. HE SLEEPS, GETS DRUNK, AND TAKES HIS BATH, ALL IN THE MORNING...
IT'S A DIFFERENT OHARA, STUPID!

THIS OHARA'S BEING HARASSED BY AN EVIL PERSON AND WANTS TO BE RESCUED...
GOSH, I DUNNO... I JUST FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE...
I'LL FIX ASTRO, AND THEN YOU'LL UNDER-STAND.
IF ASTRO REALLY MET THIS SPACEMAN...
... WE'VE GOT A BIG PROBLEM ...
OKAY ASTRO, TRY TO REMEM-BER... WHAT'S GOING ON?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER THE LETTER?
SAYS THERE A SPACEMAN NAMED OHARA HERE SEARCHING FOR HIS WIFE...
GUESS EVEN SPACEMEN HAVE TROUBLE WITH THEIR WIVES...
I KNOW... THE MAN WHO WAS HOLDING THIS LETTER-WRITER HOSTAGE WAS AN ESCAPED CONVICT! HE NEARLY KILLED ME!
SO YOU DID MEET HIM...
HOLD ON... I KNOW SCARA!!
WHAT? YOU KNOW HER?!
YES! I'VE GOTTA FIND HERE HER AND BRING HER HERE...
IT'S THAT TINY LADY I MET!
SHE SAID HER NAME WAS SCARA ...

MEANWHILE, THE ESCAPED ALIEN PRISONER AND LOCUST CREATURE WAS MOVING THE SPACESHIP TO ANOTHER LOCATION...
GOTTA FIND A SAFE PLACE TO LAND...
YOU'LL NEVER BE SAFE ANYWHERE! YOU'RE A JAILBIRD!
JAIL-BIRD?
GIVE ME A BREAK...
THAT WAS AGES AGO...
I'M KING OF THIS PLANET NOW! I'M GONNA DO WHATEVER I WANT AND RAISE HAVOK!
I'VE GOT A HUNGRY KUIK WITH ME, SO IF ANYONE COMES AFTER ME, HE'LL EAT 'EM UP! GWA HA HA!
YOU'RE CRAZY!
HERE, THIS OUGHTA DO.. IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS FROZEN LAKE, NOBODY'LL DARE COME AFTER US...

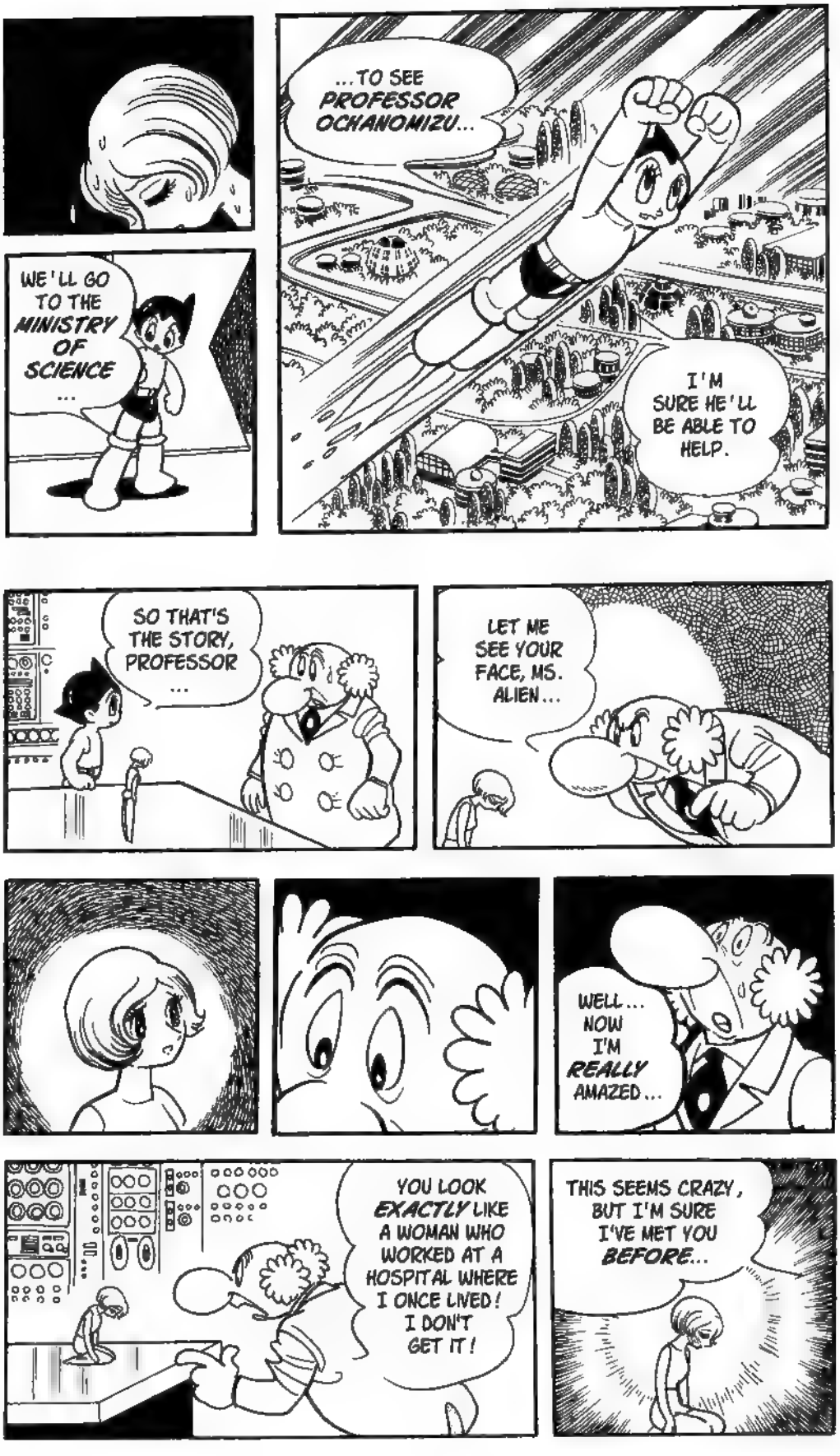

KRAK
SPLASH
WHOOSH
BLUB
GLUB
BLUB
BLUB
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE YOURSELF UP?!
GIVE UP? YOU KIDDING?
I'D BE BANISHED TO A PRISON PLANET AND SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE AS A SLAVE!
I'M STARTING TO LIKE THIS PLANET...
FRANKLY, I THINK I'LL STAY HERE...
BUT WHAT IF SOMEBODY CATCHES YOU?
HECK, I'LL DESTROY THE SPACESHIP AND THE PLANET, TOO. I'M SURE WE'VE GOT ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT, EH, PROFESSOR?
YOU SCOUNDREL!!
HEH HEH... JUST THINK OF YOURSELF AS BEING ALONG FOR THE RIDE, PROFESSOR...
WHEN YOU GO, IT'LL BE QUICK!

SCARA!
SCARA!
SCARA! WHERE ARE YOU?
WHAT'S GOING ON, ASTRO?
WHO ARE YOU CALLING FOR?
FOR SCARA... SHE'S A FRIEND OF MINE... SHE'S A REAL TINY LADY...
A LADY?
YEAH... SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN WATCHING AFTER ME, EVER SINCE I WAS BORN...
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN WITH YOU?
YEAH. WHEN I WAS IN THE CIRCUS, TOO. BUT RECENTLY I NEVER SEE HER...
I KNOW SHE'S GOTTA BE IN OUR HOUSE SOMEWHERE...
WAIT A MINUTE ...
SHE LOOKED LIKE AN INSECT, BUT HAD HAIR ABOUT THIS LONG, RIGHT?
YEAH! WHERE'D YOU SEE HER?

SHE WAS HANGING AROUND THE KITCHEN SINK, SO I CAUGHT HER...
YOU WHAT?!
OH MY GOSH!
I PUT HER IN THE BUG ZAPPER BOTTLE ALONG WITH THE OTHER INSECTS...
IT'S BEEN NEARLY THREE MONTHS, ASTRO... SHE MIGHT BE DEAD...
WHAT'D YOU PUT HER IN HERE FOR, MOM?!
I'VE GOT TO REVIVE HER SOMEHOW...
WHAT IF YOU GIVE HER SOME FRESH AIR TO BREATH...
WHEN I CAUGHT HER SHE WAS ALREADY OUT COLD, SO MAYBE SHE HASN'T BREATHED THE AIR IN THE BOTTLE
WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK...
...WE JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE AN OXYGEN BOTTLE AT HOME...
SWOOSH
I SURE HOPE THIS WORKS...

UGHH ...
WOW! LOOK! SHE MOVED!!
NO SO LOUD, DAD! YOU BLEW HER OFF THE TABLE!!
SCARA... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AS..TRO...
Y...YOU SAVED ME, DIDN'T YOU...
I WAS SO AFRAID ...
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON YOUR MOTHER.. SHE WAS TRYING TO HELP YOU COLLECT INSECTS FOR YOUR SCHOOL SCIENCE PROJECT...
SCARA... DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE NAMED OHARA?
OHARA ?!
OF COURSE I DO!
HE'S MY HUS-BAND!
WELL, HE'S ON EARTH NOW, SCARA ...
YOU'RE KIDDING!!

HE APPARENTLY CAME LOOKING FOR YOU...
MY HUSBAND?! HERE?! LOOKING FOR ME?!
....
....
WHAT'S GOING ON, SCARA?
WERE YOU TWO SEPARATED?
DID YOU HAVE A FALLING OUT?
PLEASE.. I NEED TO SEE HIM...
CAN YOU TAKE ME TO HIM?
SURE, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS...
I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO FIND HIM...
WE NEED HUMANS TO HELP US FOR THIS, SCARA...
....
YOU'LL HAVE TO APPEAR BEFORE A HUMAN, AS SOMEONE FROM OUTER SPACE...
... AND ASK FOR HELP...

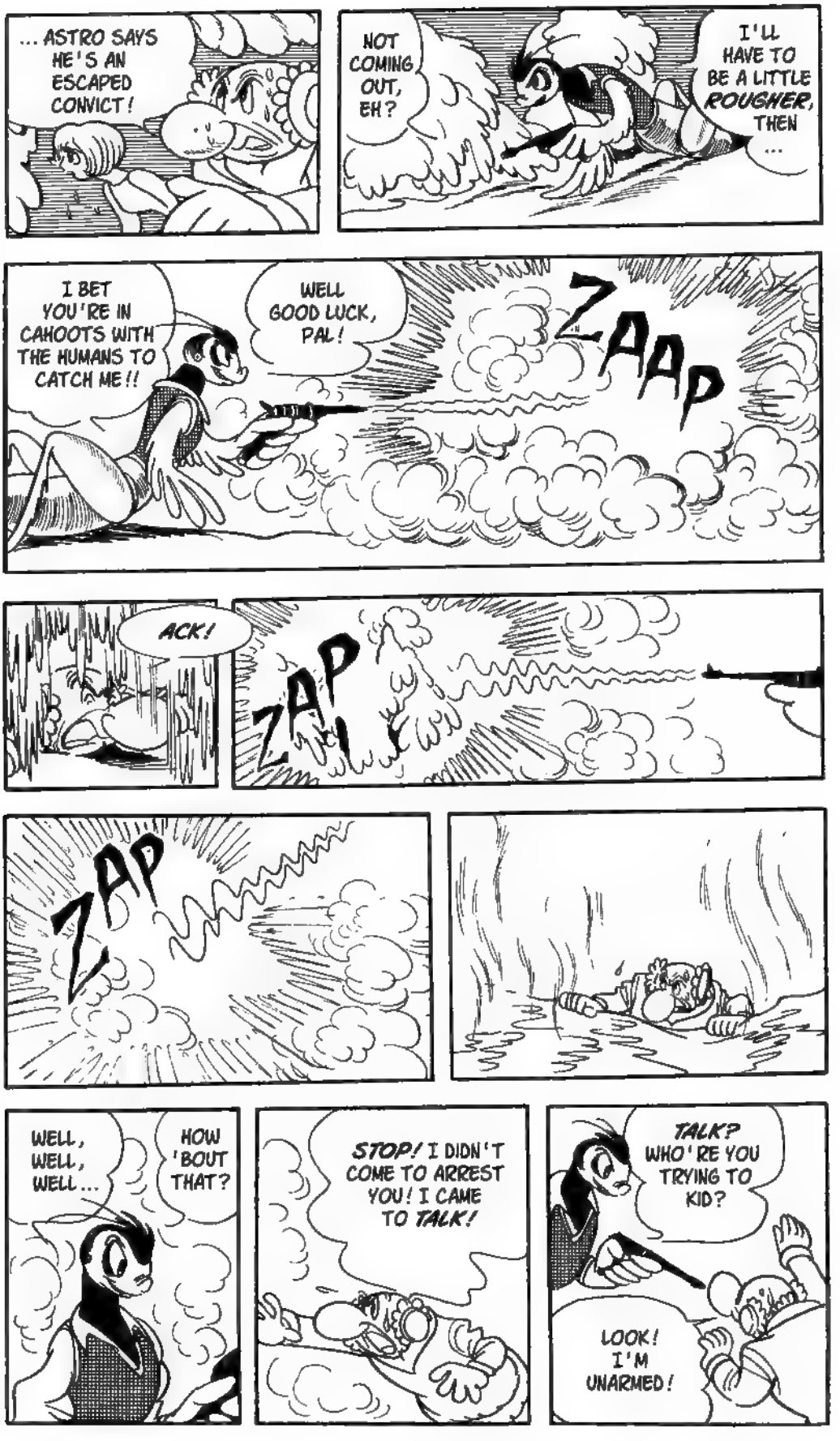

...TO SEE PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU...
I'M SURE HE'LL BE ABLE TO HELP.
WE'LL GO TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE ...
SO THAT'S THE STORY, PROFESSOR ...
LET ME SEE YOUR FACE, MS. ALIEN...
WELL... NOW I'M REALLY AMAZED...
YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE A WOMAN WHO WORKED AT A HOSPITAL WHERE I ONCE LIVED! I DON'T GET IT!
THIS SEEMS CRAZY, BUT I'M SURE I'VE MET YOU BEFORE...

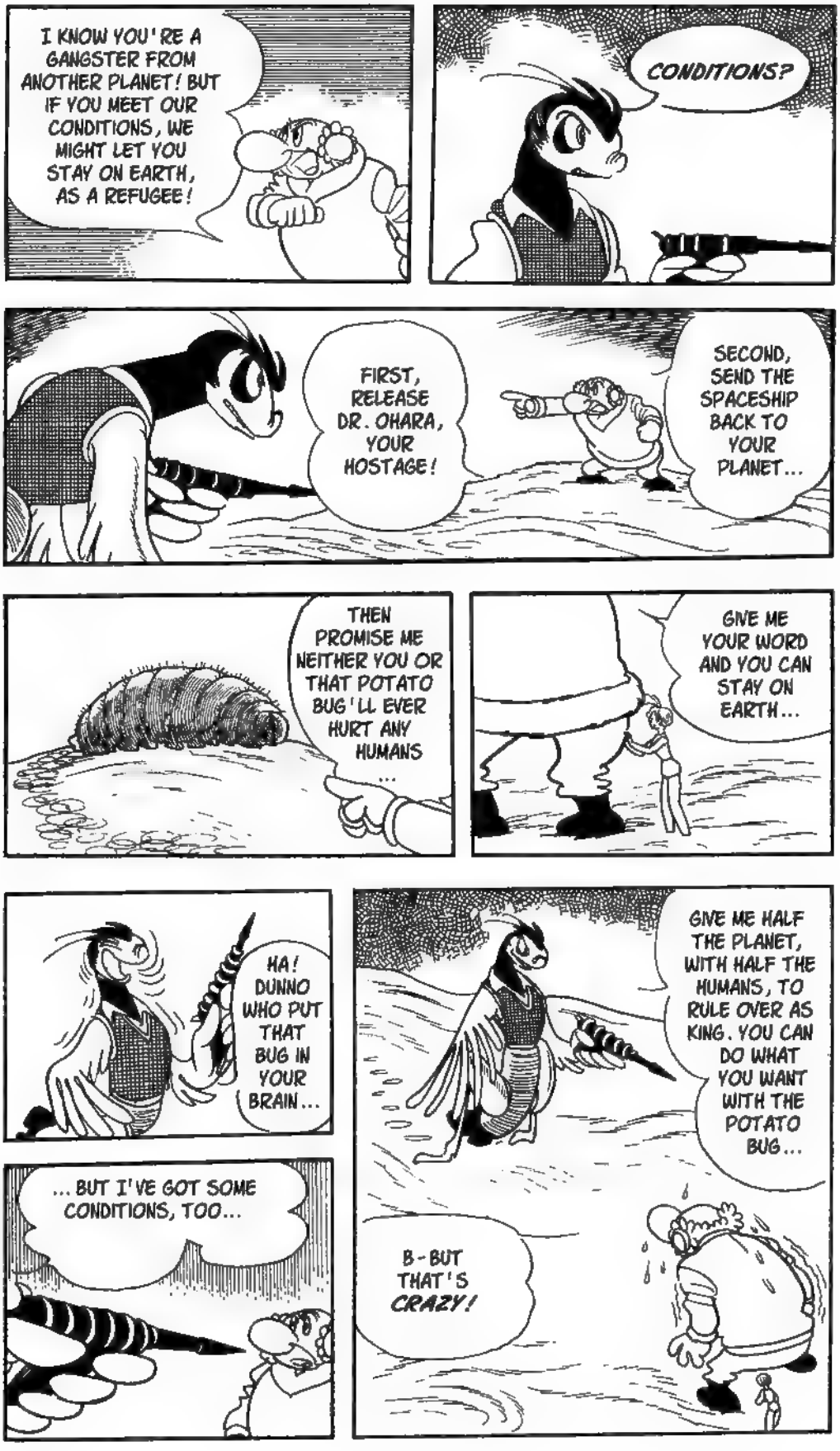
WELL, I'VE SCANNED ALL THESE MOUNTAINS HERE BY RADAR...
...BUT I'M NOT PICKING UP ANYTHING LIKE A SPACESHIP.
I CHECKED A 20 SQUARE MILE AREA AND DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING UNUSUAL...
HOLD ON... WHAT'S THIS?!
LOOKS LIKE A LAKE ...
THINK THE SHIP COULD'VE SUNK IN THE LAKE?
HMM ...
WELL, HERE WE ARE! IT'S FROZEN OVER!
WAIT! THE ICE THERE'S EXTRA-THIN!
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING CRASHED THROUGH IT, AND THEN IT FROZE OVER AGAIN...

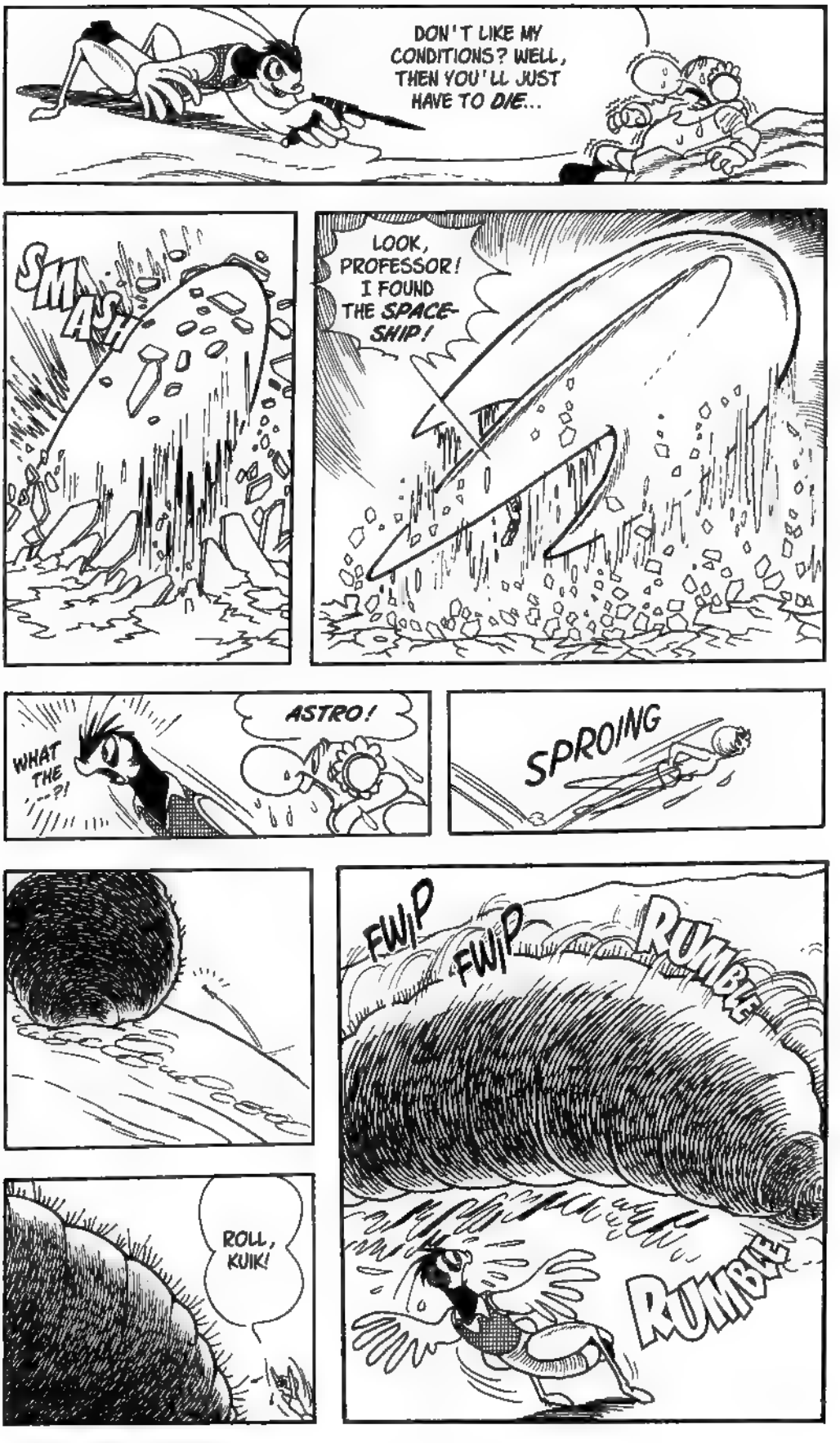
MAYBE SOME-THING'S UNDER THE ICE...
GO TAKE A LOOK, ASTRO.
CRACK
WONDER WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG...
I HOPE HE FINDS THE SPACE-SHIP...
DON'T FORGET, IT'S BEEN HIJACKED BY AN ESCAPED CONVICT!
EEEK!
WE'RE BEING ATTACKED BY A MONSTER!

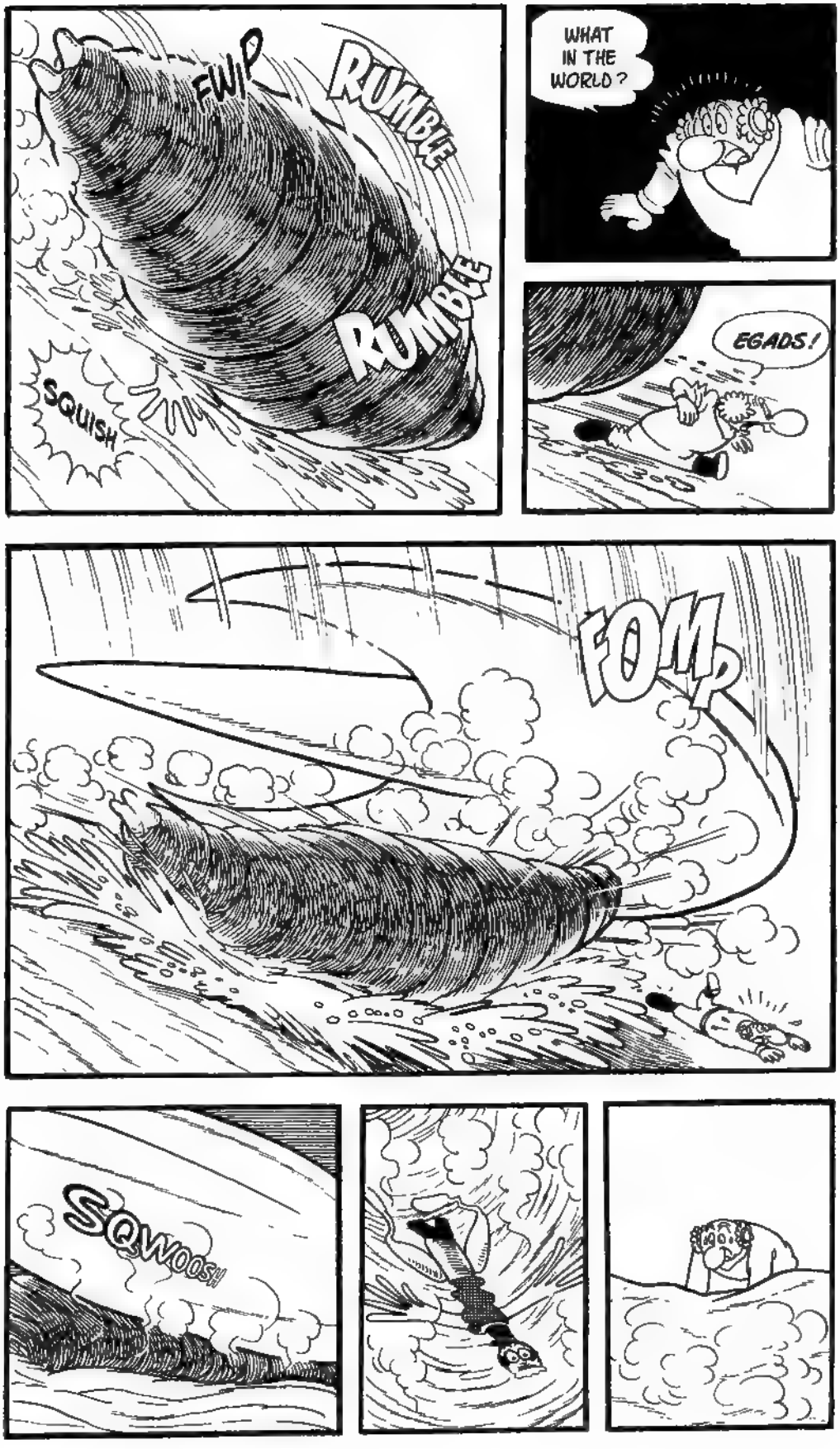
RUN FOR IT, SCARA!
PROFESSOR! THAT'S A KUIK! WE RAISE THEM ON MY PLANET!
KUIK! KUIK! MERA MONE KANYUTA!
BLECH
DON'T WORRY, PROFESSOR. THEY EAT A LOT BUT THEY OBEY ORDERS...
GUERO-MORO NAKABAN-AAKU!
'DUNNO WHERE HE CAME FROM, BUT HE'S SCARY!
HE OBEYS LIKE A DOG...
I TOLD HIM TO TAKE US TO HIS MASTER...

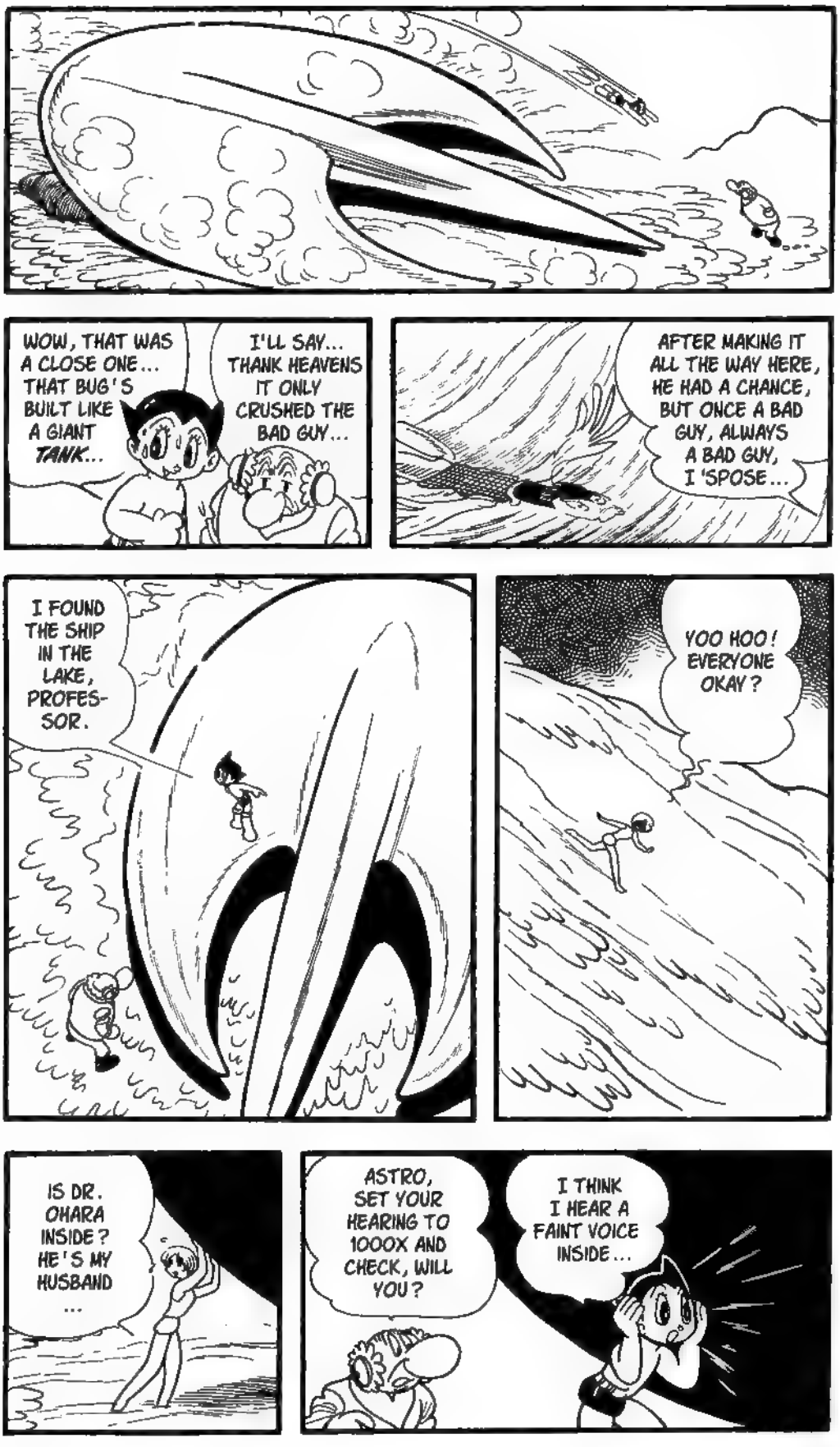
THERE HE IS! GET DOWN!
WHY'D YOU COME BACK, KUIK?
I ORDERED YOU TO CRUSH THE FLYING MACHINE AND EAT THE HUMANS! WHAT HAPPENED?!
SOMEONE SEND YOU BACK HERE?
NO HUMAN COULD COMMAND YOU...
...SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE FROM MY PLANET...
WHO'S THERE?! WHO GOES?!
NO USE HIDING! COME ON OUT!
WE'RE FROM THE SAME PLANET, RIGHT?
DON'T MOVE, SCARA! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

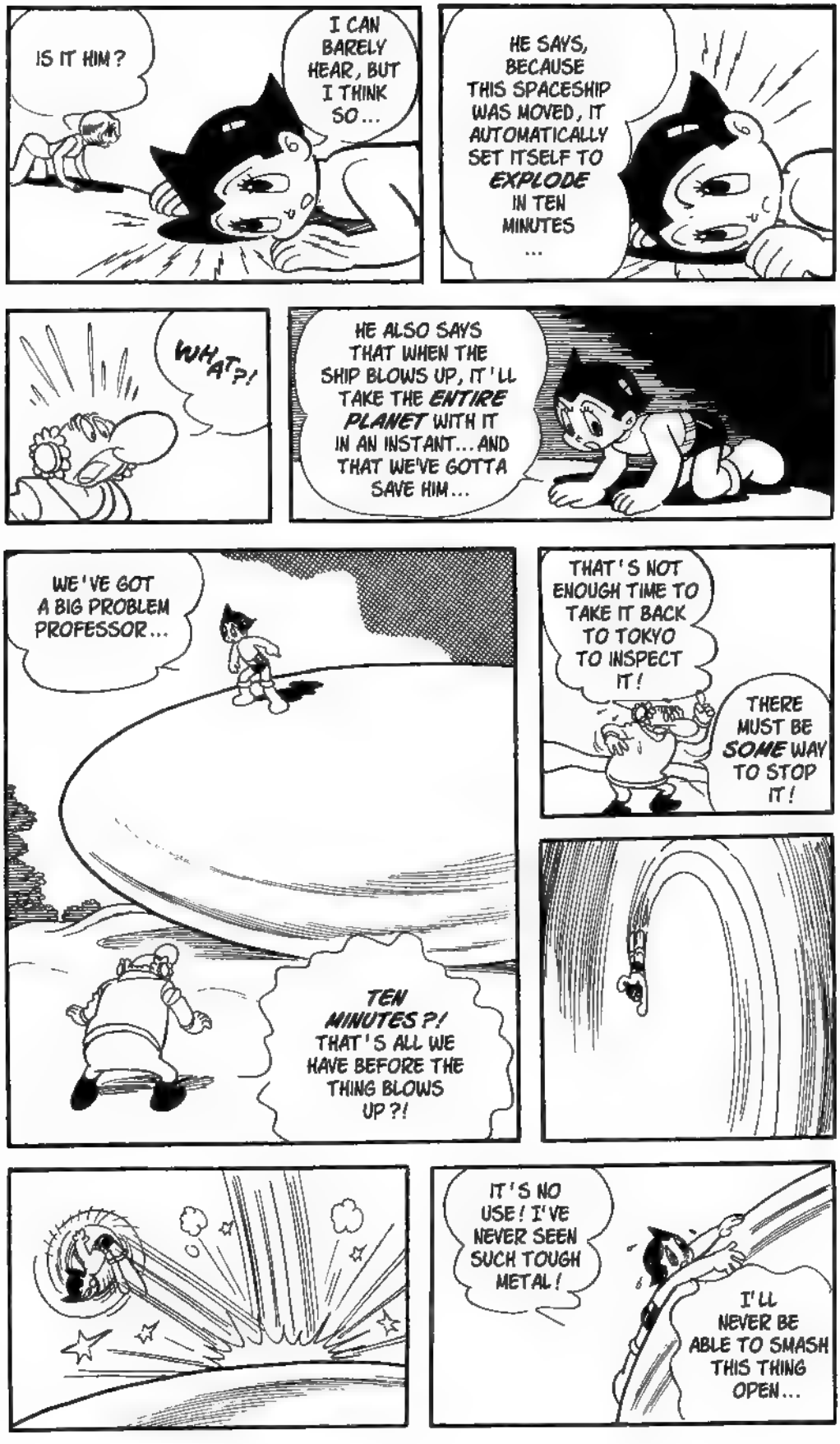

... ASTRO SAYS HE'S AN ESCAPED CONVICT!
NOT COMING OUT, EH?
I'LL HAVE TO BE A LITTLE ROUGHER, THEN ...
I BET YOU'RE IN CAHOOTS WITH THE HUMANS TO CATCH ME!!
WELL GOOD LUCK, PAL!
ZAAP
ACK!
ZAP
ZAP
WELL, WELL, WELL...
HOW 'BOUT THAT?
STOP! I DIDN'T COME TO ARREST YOU! I CAME TO TALK!
TALK? WHO'RE YOU TRYING TO KID?
LOOK! I'M UNARMED!


I KNOW YOU'RE A GANGSTER FROM ANOTHER PLANET! BUT IF YOU MEET OUR CONDITIONS, WE MIGHT LET YOU STAY ON EARTH, AS A REFUGEE!
CONDITIONS?
FIRST, RELEASE DR. OHARA, YOUR HOSTAGE!
SECOND, SEND THE SPACESHIP BACK TO YOUR PLANET...
THEN PROMISE ME NEITHER YOU OR THAT POTATO BUG'LL EVER HURT ANY HUMANS ...
GIVE ME YOUR WORD AND YOU CAN STAY ON EARTH...
HA! DUNNO WHO PUT THAT BUG IN YOUR BRAIN...
... BUT I'VE GOT SOME CONDITIONS, TOO...
GIVE ME HALF THE PLANET, WITH HALF THE HUMANS, TO RULE OVER AS KING. YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH THE POTATO BUG...
B-BUT THAT'S CRAZY!

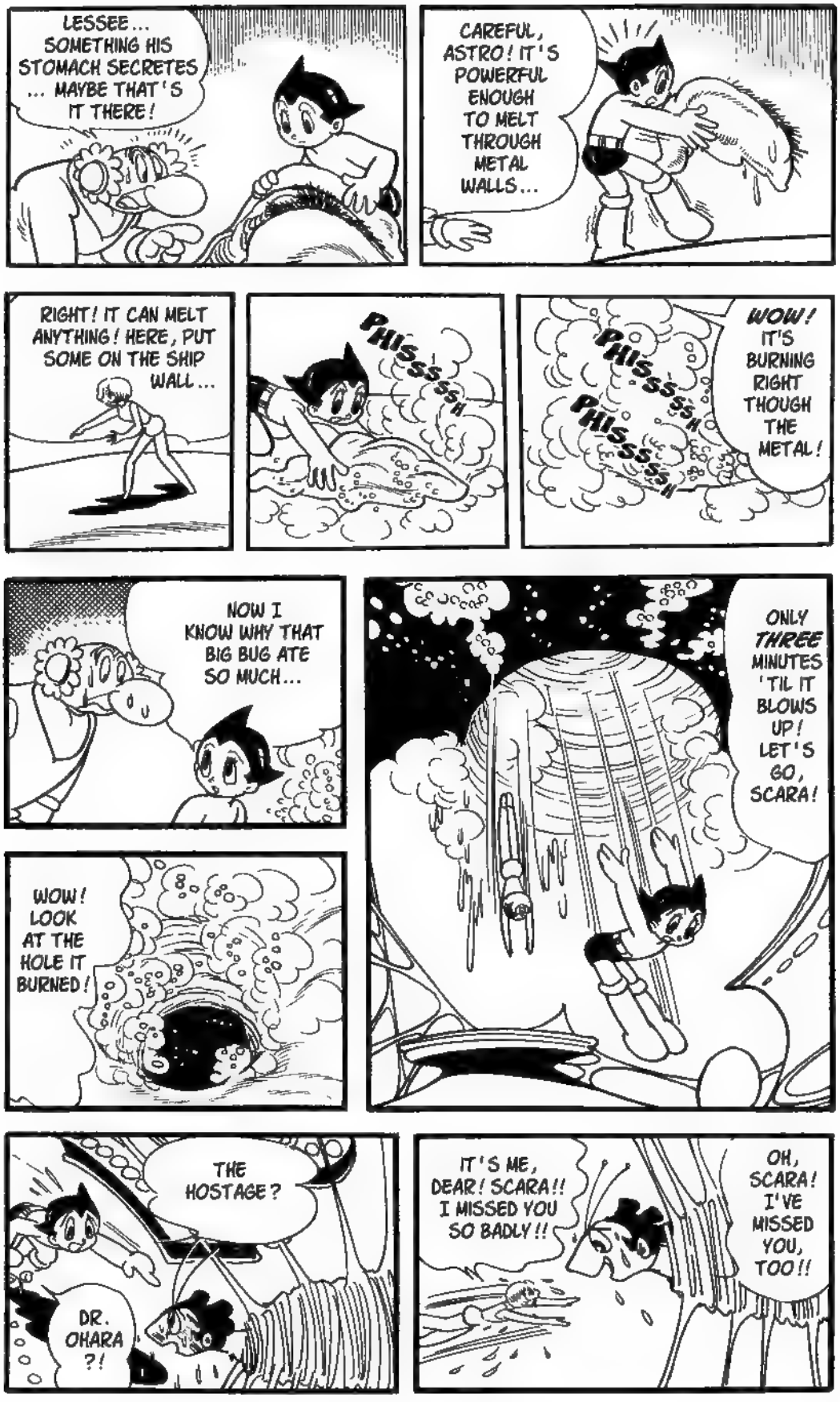

DON'T LIKE MY CONDITIONS? WELL, THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO *DIE*...
SMASH
LOOK, PROFESSOR! I FOUND THE *SPACE-SHIP!*
WHAT THE ---?!
ASTRO!
SPROING
FWIP
FWIP
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ROLL, KUIK!


FWIP
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
SQUISH
WHAT IN THE WORLD?
EGADS!
FOMP
SQWOOSH

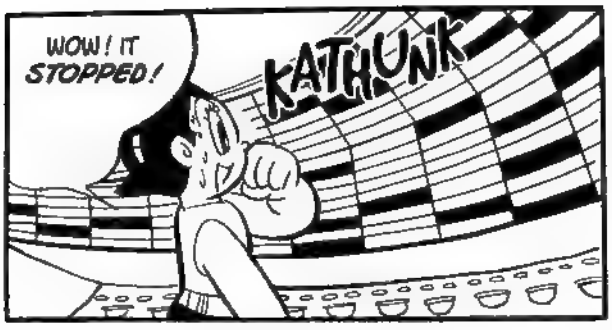

WOW, THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE... THAT BUG'S BUILT LIKE A GIANT TANK...
I'LL SAY... THANK HEAVENS IT ONLY CRUSHED THE BAD GUY...
AFTER MAKING IT ALL THE WAY HERE, HE HAD A CHANCE, BUT ONCE A BAD GUY, ALWAYS A BAD GUY, I 'SPOSE...
I FOUND THE SHIP IN THE LAKE, PROFESSOR.
YOO HOO! EVERYONE OKAY?
IS DR. OHARA INSIDE? HE'S MY HUSBAND ...
ASTRO, SET YOUR HEARING TO 1000X AND CHECK, WILL YOU?
I THINK I HEAR A FAINT VOICE INSIDE...


IS IT HIM?
I CAN BARELY HEAR, BUT I THINK SO...
HE SAYS, BECAUSE THIS SPACESHIP WAS MOVED, IT AUTOMATICALLY SET ITSELF TO EXPLODE IN TEN MINUTES ...
WHAT?!
HE ALSO SAYS THAT WHEN THE SHIP BLOWS UP, IT'LL TAKE THE ENTIRE PLANET WITH IT IN AN INSTANT... AND THAT WE'VE GOTTA SAVE HIM...
WE'VE GOT A BIG PROBLEM PROFESSOR...
TEN MINUTES?! THAT'S ALL WE HAVE BEFORE THE THING BLOWS UP?!
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TIME TO TAKE IT BACK TO TOKYO TO INSPECT IT!
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO STOP IT!
IT'S NO USE! I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH TOUGH METAL!
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SMASH THIS THING OPEN...

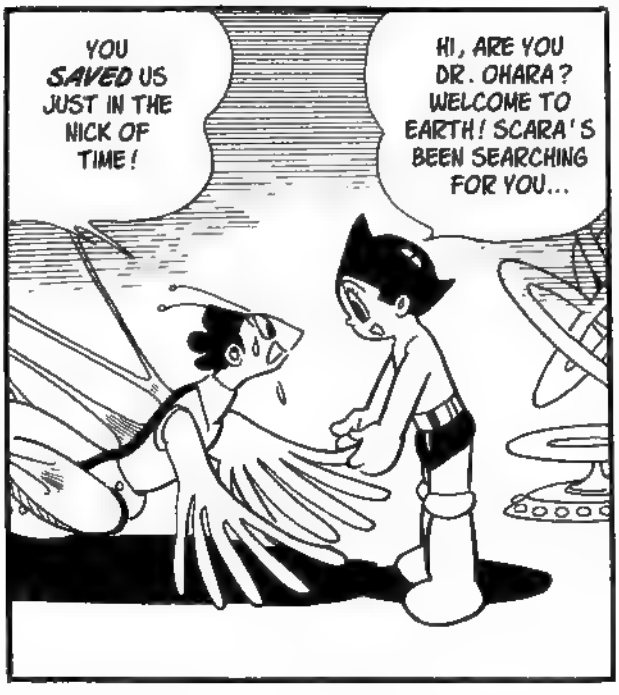
THINK THERE'S SOME WAY WE COULD *MELT* THE WALLS, SCARA?
... MAYBE I COULD HEAT IT UP...
I KNOW! I COULD USE MY *JETS!*
THAT WON'T WORK, ASTRO... BUT USING A CHEMICAL LIKE PLORAIONIUM MIGHT...
PLORAI-ONIUM P! WHAT'S THAT?!
IT'S A SECRETION IN THE FOLDS OF INSECT STOMACHS...
INSECT STOM-ACHS P!
HOW CAN WE COLLECT...
... SOME-THING THAT SMALL?
ONLY *EIGHT* MINUTES LEFT! WE'VE GOTTA FIND SOME INSECTS, ASTRO!
BUT IT'S *WINTER!* I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO SEARCH ...
THERE WE GO!
SCARA'S RIGHT!
I FORGOT ABOUT THIS MONSTER...
WHAT A RELIEF!
ONLY *SIX* MINUTES LEFT PROFES-SOR...
WHERE'S HIS STOMACH?
I'M NOT SURE...
YOU FOUND IT!
THIS IS IT! IT'S STUFFED WITH *PINE NEEDLES!*


LESSEE... SOMETHING HIS STOMACH SECRETES ... MAYBE THAT'S IT THERE!
CAREFUL, ASTRO! IT'S POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MELT THROUGH METAL WALLS...
RIGHT! IT CAN MELT ANYTHING! HERE, PUT SOME ON THE SHIP WALL...
PHISSSSSH
PHISSSSSH
PHISSSSSH
WOW! IT'S BURNING RIGHT THOUGH THE METAL!
NOW I KNOW WHY THAT BIG BUG ATE SO MUCH...
ONLY THREE MINUTES 'TIL IT BLOWS UP! LET'S GO, SCARA!
WOW! LOOK AT THE HOLE IT BURNED!
THE HOSTAGE?
DR. OHARA?!
IT'S ME, DEAR! SCARA!! I MISSED YOU SO BADLY!!
OH, SCARA! I'VE MISSED YOU, TOO!!

FORGIVE ME, DEAR ... AND LOOK AT THE SHAPE I'M IN, TOO...
OH, DEAR SCARA, DON'T WORRY...
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING'S TO STOP THE EXPLOSION!
YOU'VE GOTTA SMASH THE RED LAMP...
WHICH RED LAMP?!
THERE! THE ONE THERE! WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE MINUTE!
DUNNO WHICH ONE IT IS...
... BUT I COULD SMASH 'EM ALL!
IN THIRTY SECONDS THE WORLD'LL BLOW UP!
MAKE SURE YOU GET THE RIGHT ONE!
TEN SECONDS TO GO!
SMASH
KEEEEE
PSSSHHH

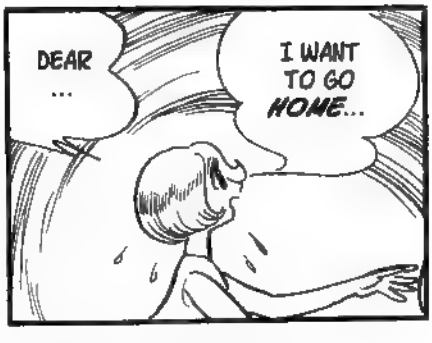

WOW! IT STOPPED!
KATHUNK

IT STOPPED, PROFESSOR... EVERYTHING'S OKAY NOW!
DR. OHARA, THE PILOT, SEEMS OKAY, TOO...
WHAT A RELIEF!


YOU SAVED US JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!
HI, ARE YOU DR. OHARA? WELCOME TO EARTH! SCARA'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU...

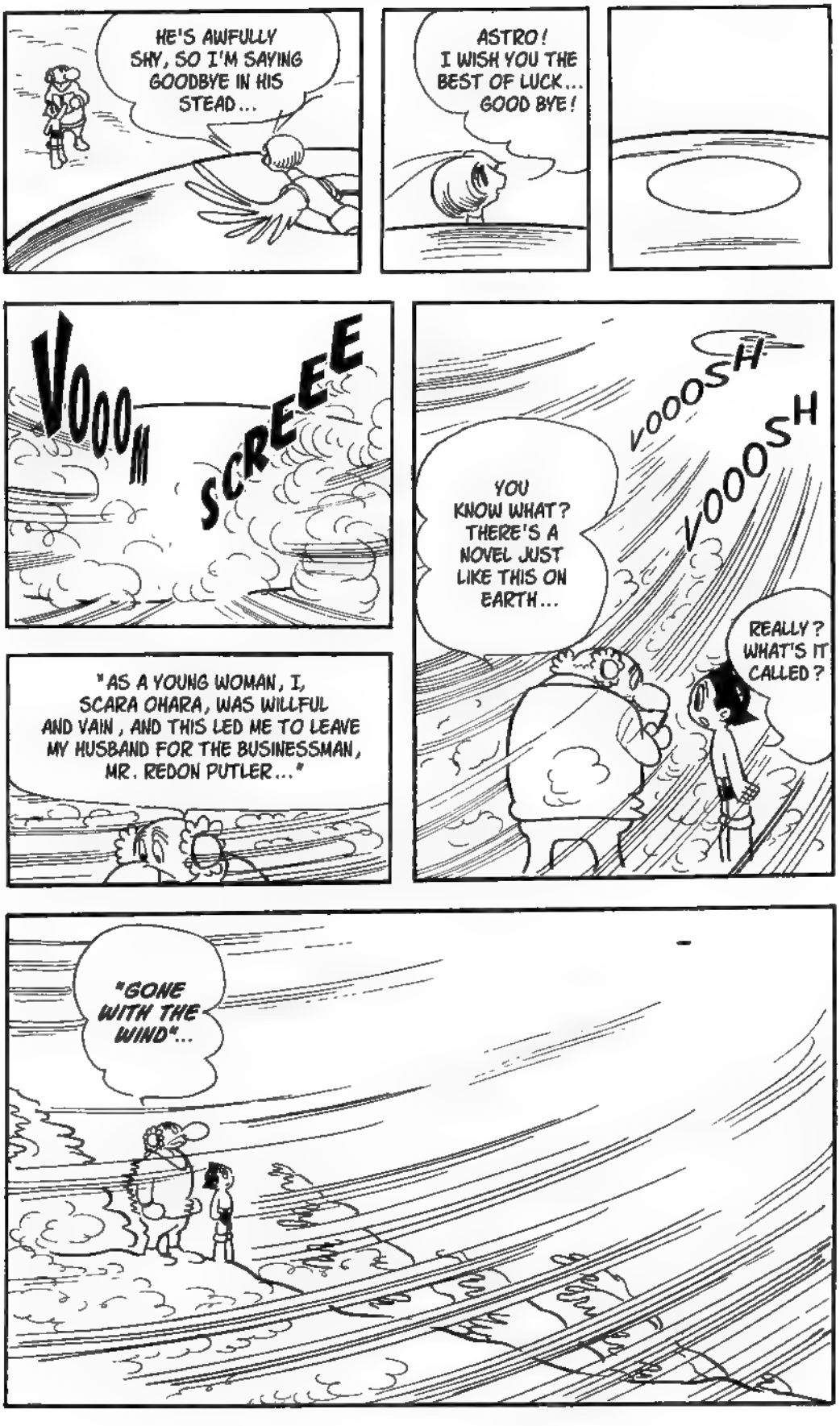
LET'S LET THE TWO OF THEM BE TOGETHER FOR AWHILE, ASTRO...
DON'T FORGET... THEY HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR DECADES...

I TOOK OFF IN THE SHIP TO SEARCH FOR YOU, SCARA...
BUT IT WAS HIJACKED BY THAT GANGSTER! I THOUGHT I WAS FINISHED!


DEAR ...
I WANT TO GO HOME...

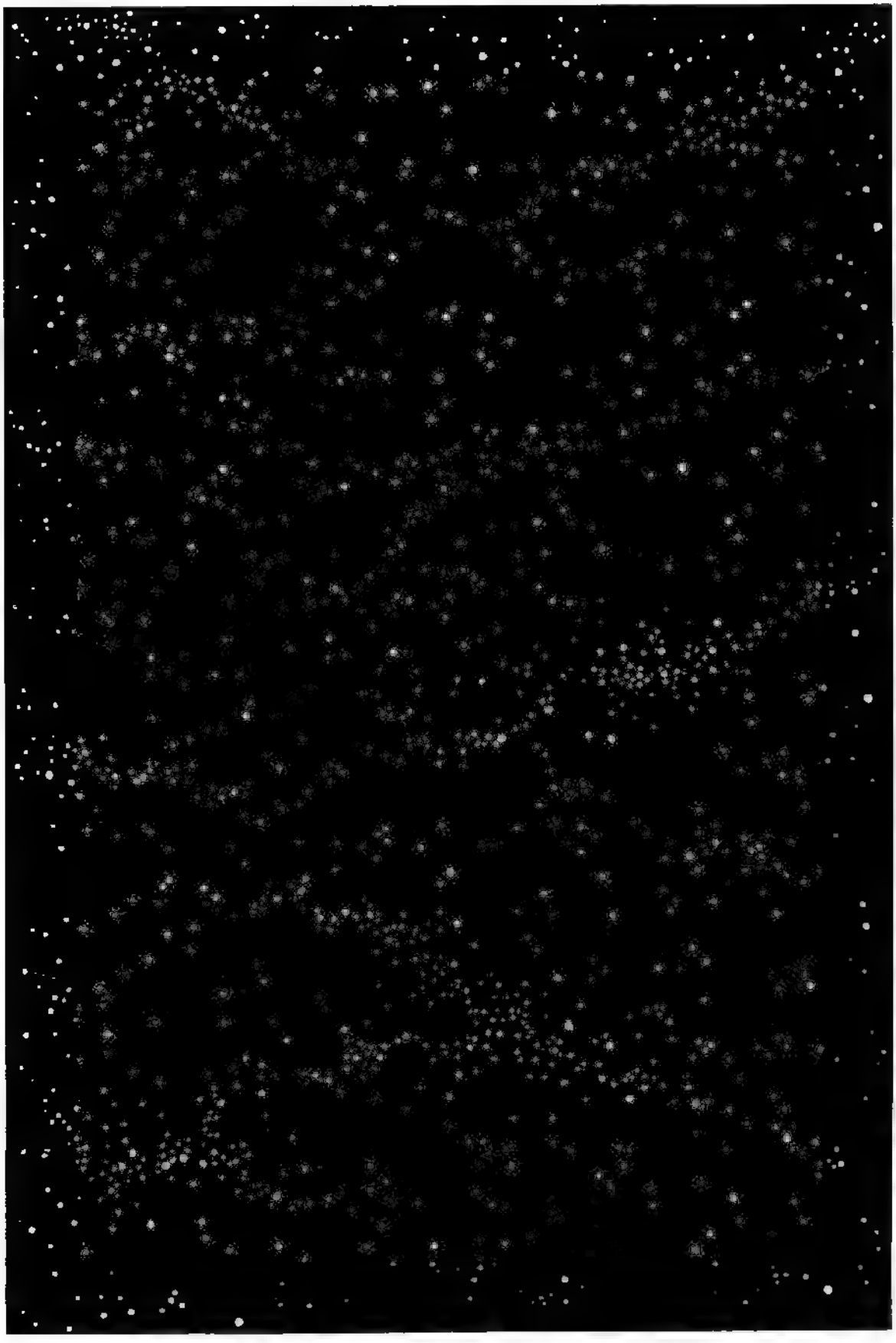
AND I WANT TO LOOK NORMAL AGAIN! PLEASE!
I'LL PUT YOU IN THE METAMORPHIZER RIGHT AWAY...

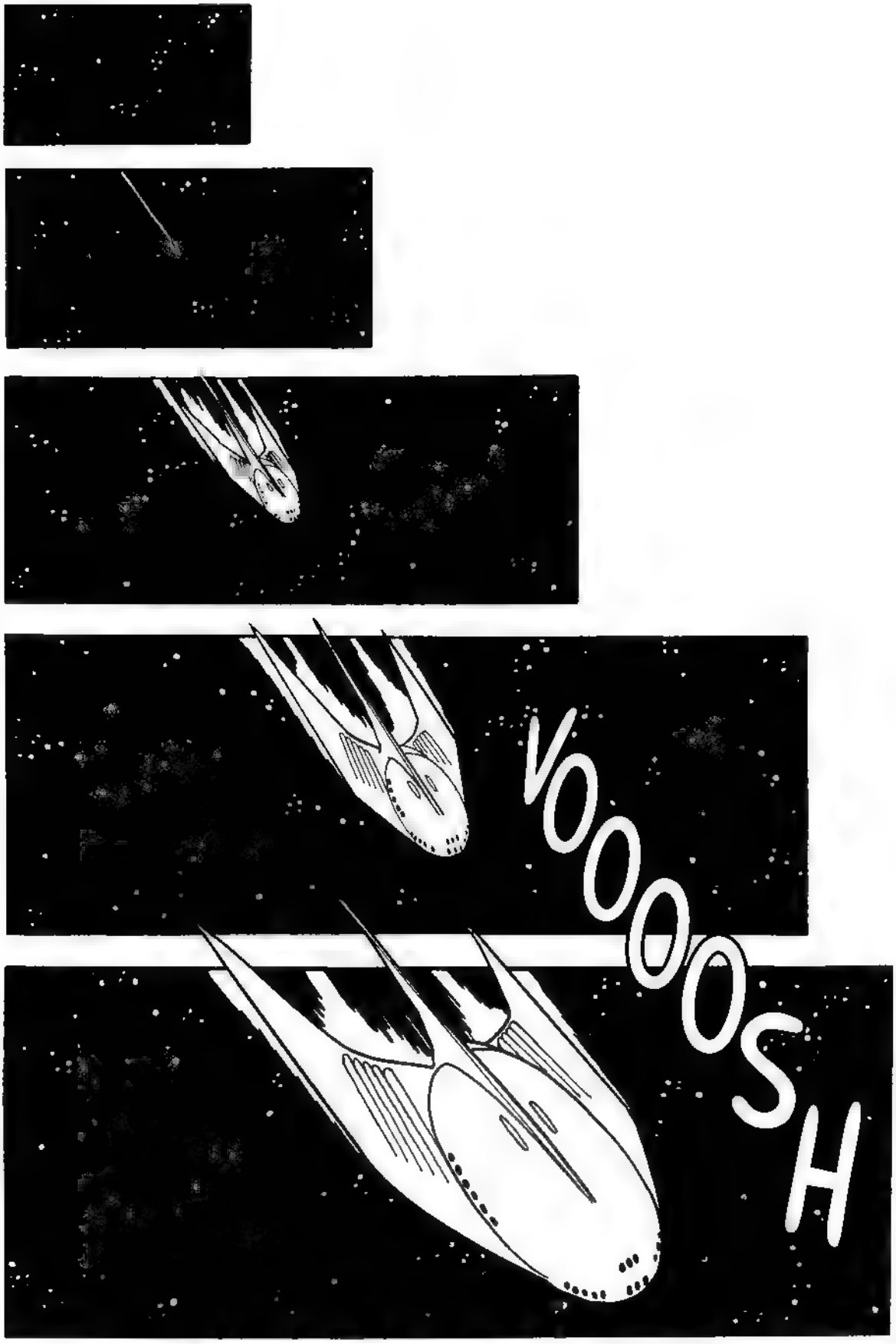
SEEMS AWFULLY QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN...
WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON...
SOMETHING'S COMING OUT...
IT'S ANOTHER LOCUST PERSON...
ASTRO...
I'VE REVERTED TO MY ORIGINAL FORM ...
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP OVER THE YEARS...
WHA ?!
YOU MEAN YOU'VE DECIDED TO GO HOME?
YES. WE TALKED IT OVER, AND WE'RE GOING TO START AGAIN FROM SCRATCH...
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA... YOU'RE BOTH YOUNG, WITH YOUR LIVES AHEAD OF YOU...
DON'T FORGET ABOUT US ON EARTH, THOUGH...
HERE...
THIS IS MY DIARY OF MY DAYS ON EARTH... IT'S A LITTLE MEMENTO OF ME...
WOW... THIS IS GREAT. IT'S FILLED WITH ADVICE FOR HUMANS...
MY HUSBAND'S ALSO GRATEFUL TO BOTH OF YOU.

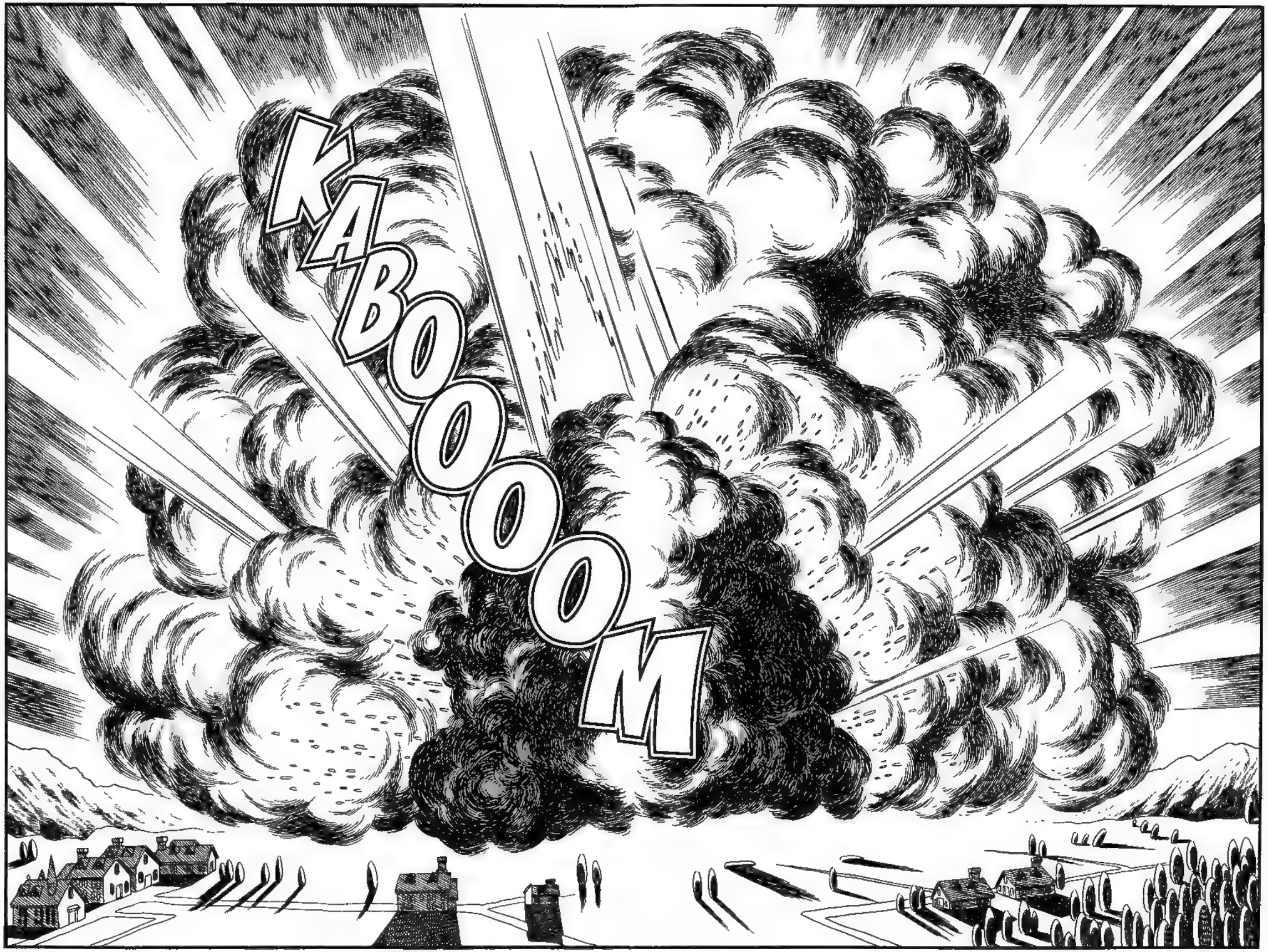

HE'S AWFULLY SHY, SO I'M SAYING GOODBYE IN HIS STEAD...
ASTRO! I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK... GOOD BYE!
VOOOM
SCREEE
VOOOSH
VOOOSH
YOU KNOW WHAT? THERE'S A NOVEL JUST LIKE THIS ON EARTH...
REALLY? WHAT'S IT CALLED?
"AS A YOUNG WOMAN, I, SCARA OHARA, WAS WILLFUL AND VAIN, AND THIS LED ME TO LEAVE MY HUSBAND FOR THE BUSINESSMAN, MR. REDON PUTLER..."
"GONE WITH THE WIND"...

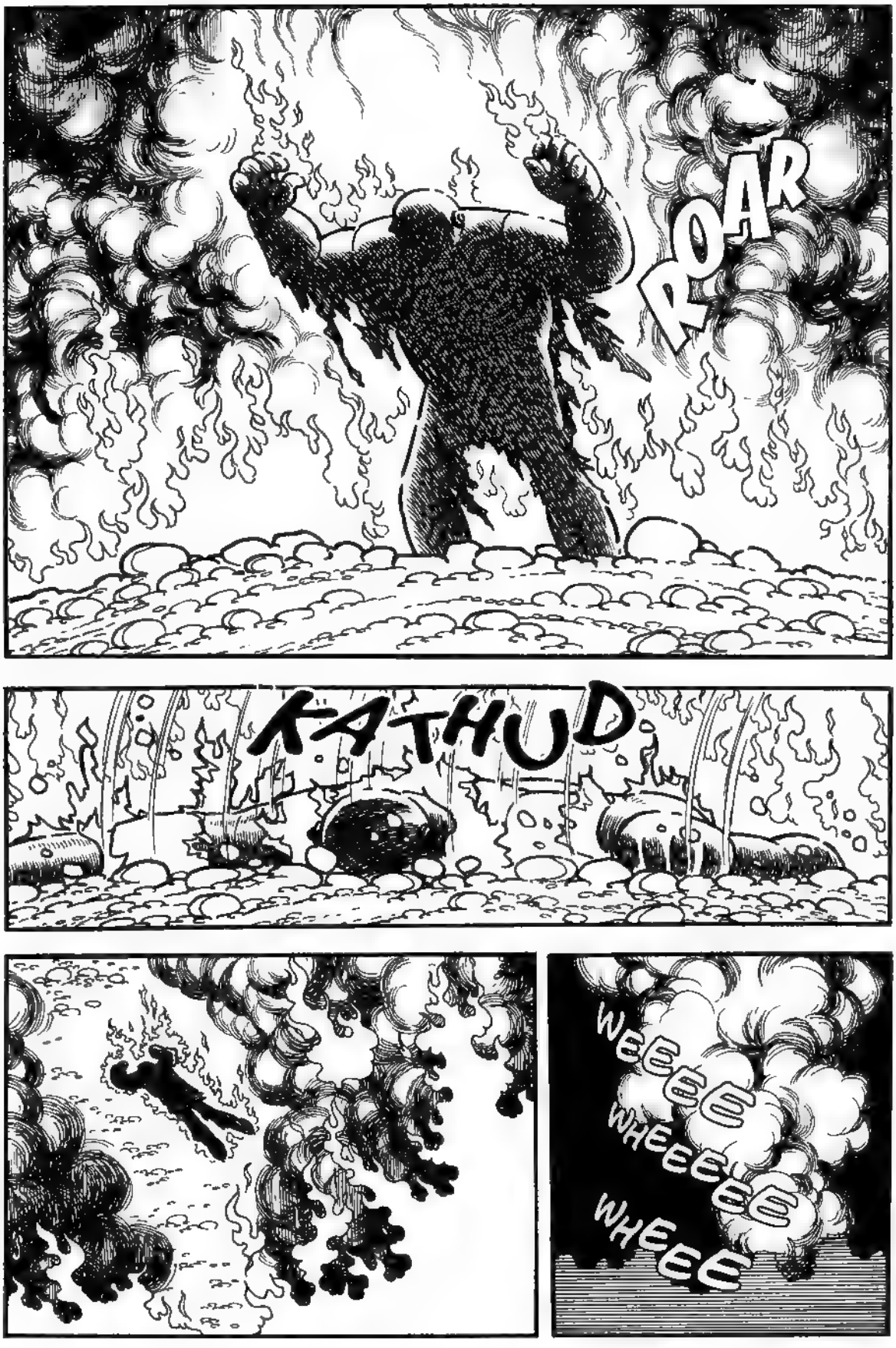
THE FACELESS ROBOT

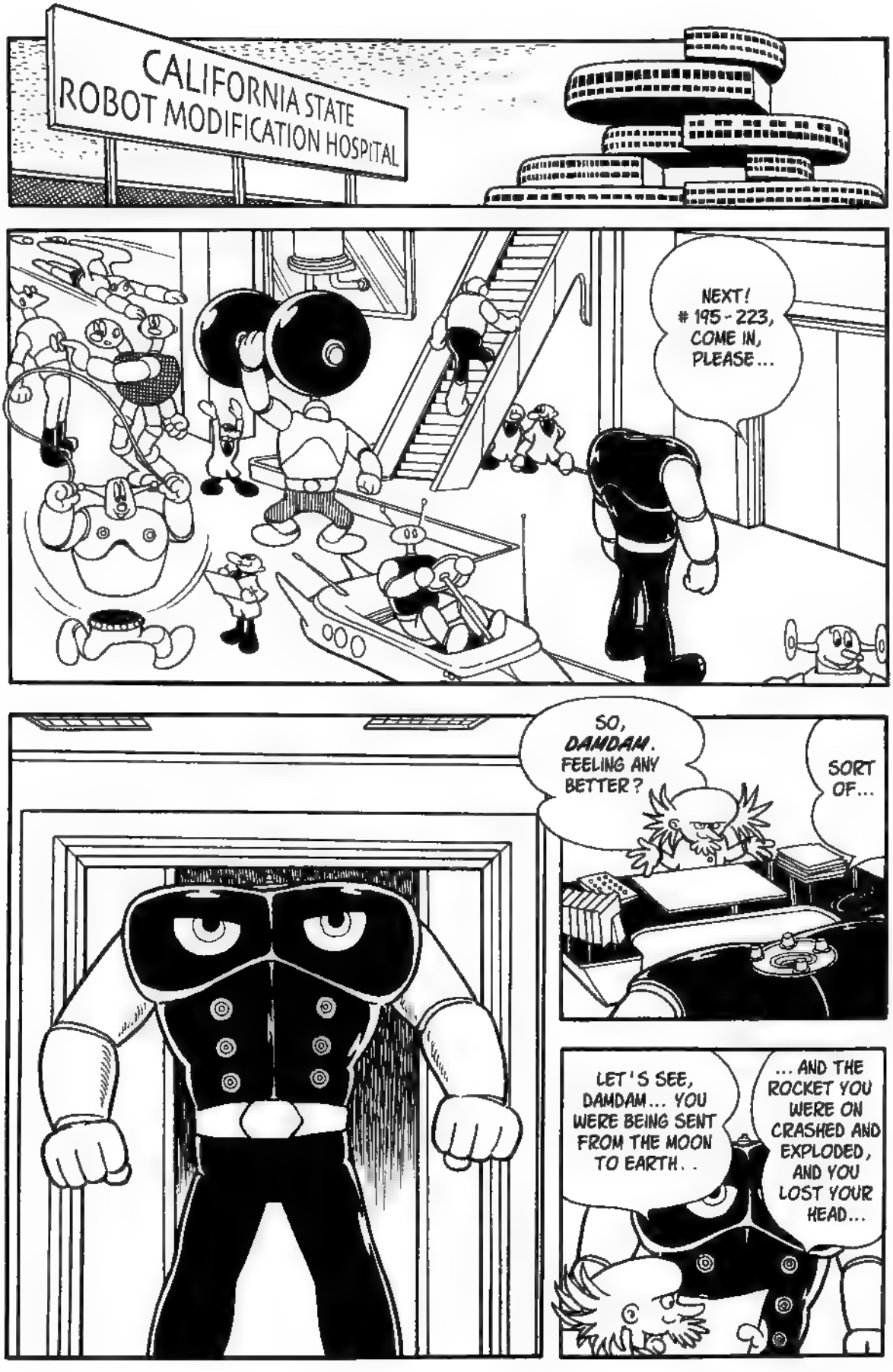
First serialized between January and February 1967 in *Shonen* magazine.



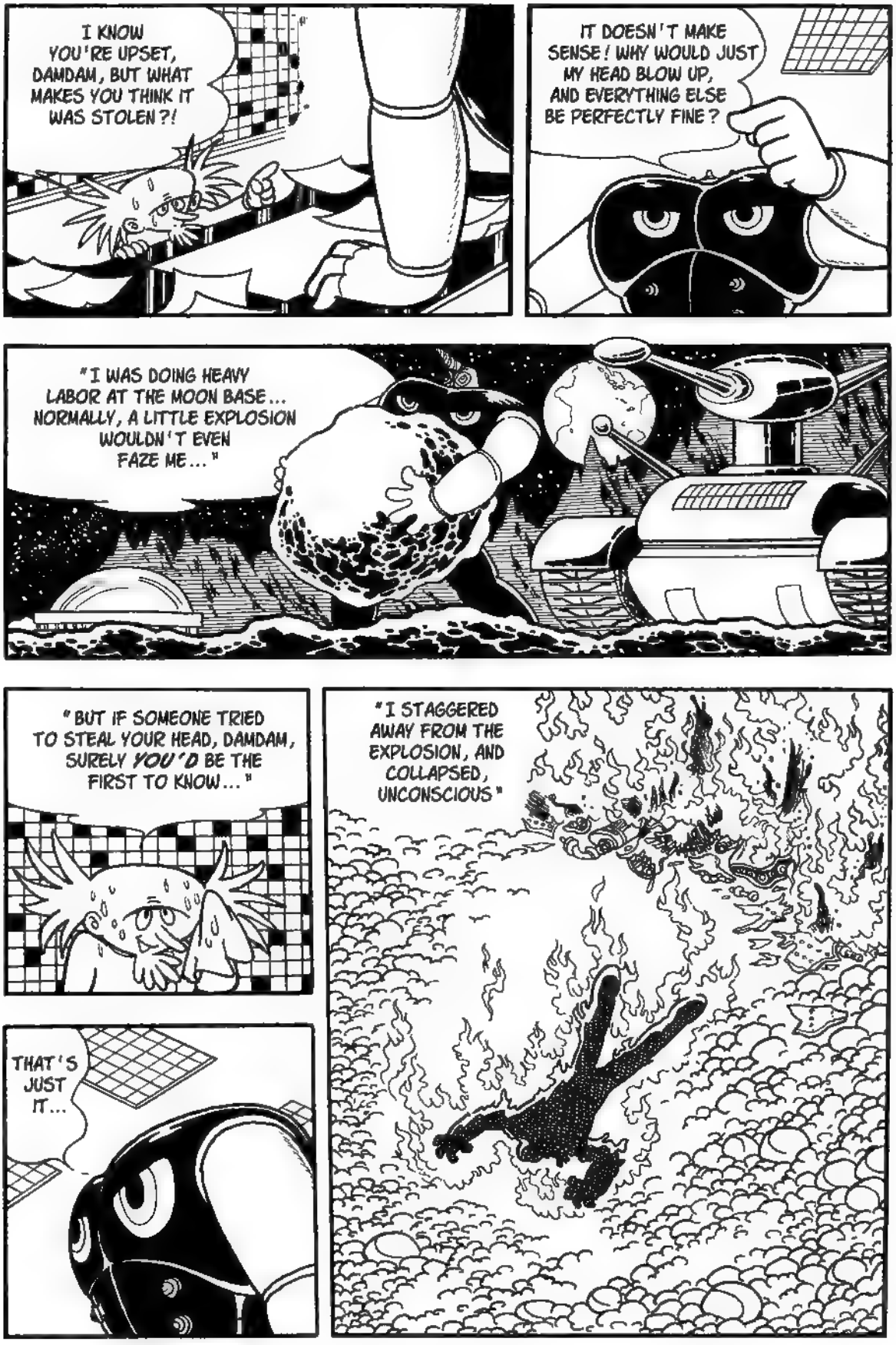

VOOOOSH


KABOOOM

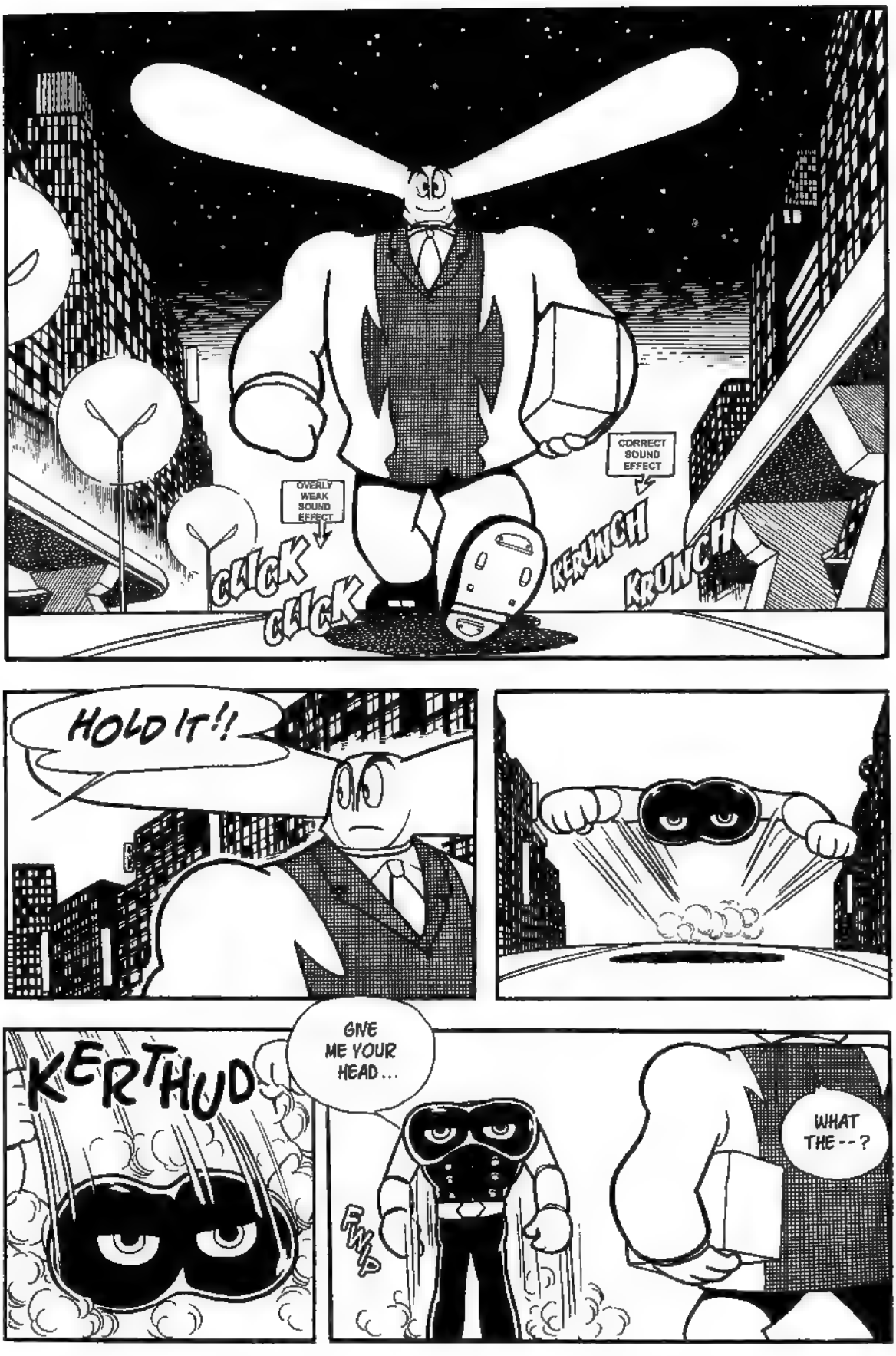

ROAR
KATHUD
WEEEE
WHEEEEE
WHEEE

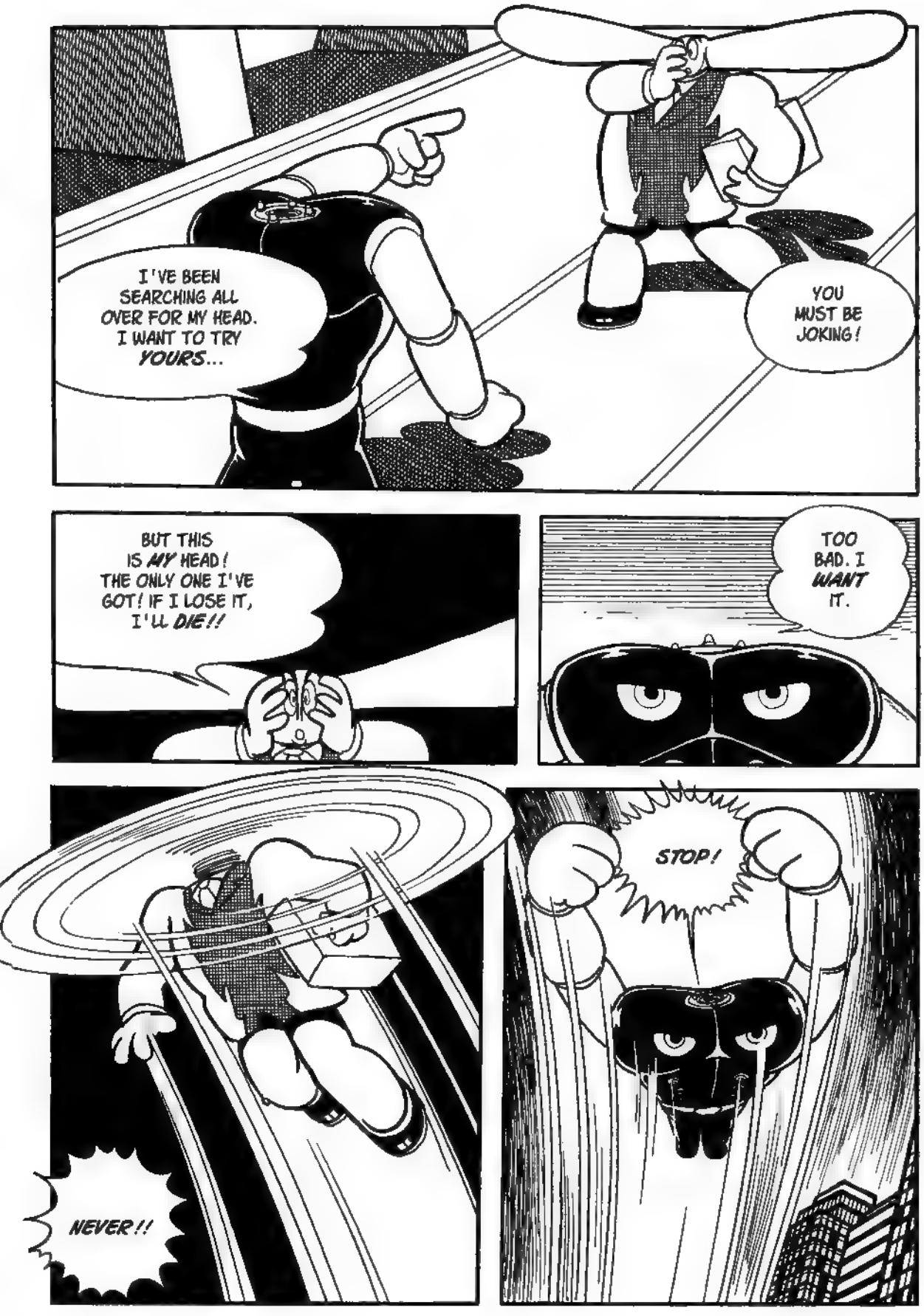

CALIFORNIA STATE ROBOT MODIFICATION HOSPITAL
NEXT! # 195 - 223, COME IN, PLEASE...
SO, DAMDAM. FEELING ANY BETTER?
SORT OF...
LET'S SEE, DAMDAM... YOU WERE BEING SENT FROM THE MOON TO EARTH..
... AND THE ROCKET YOU WERE ON CRASHED AND EXPLODED, AND YOU LOST YOUR HEAD...

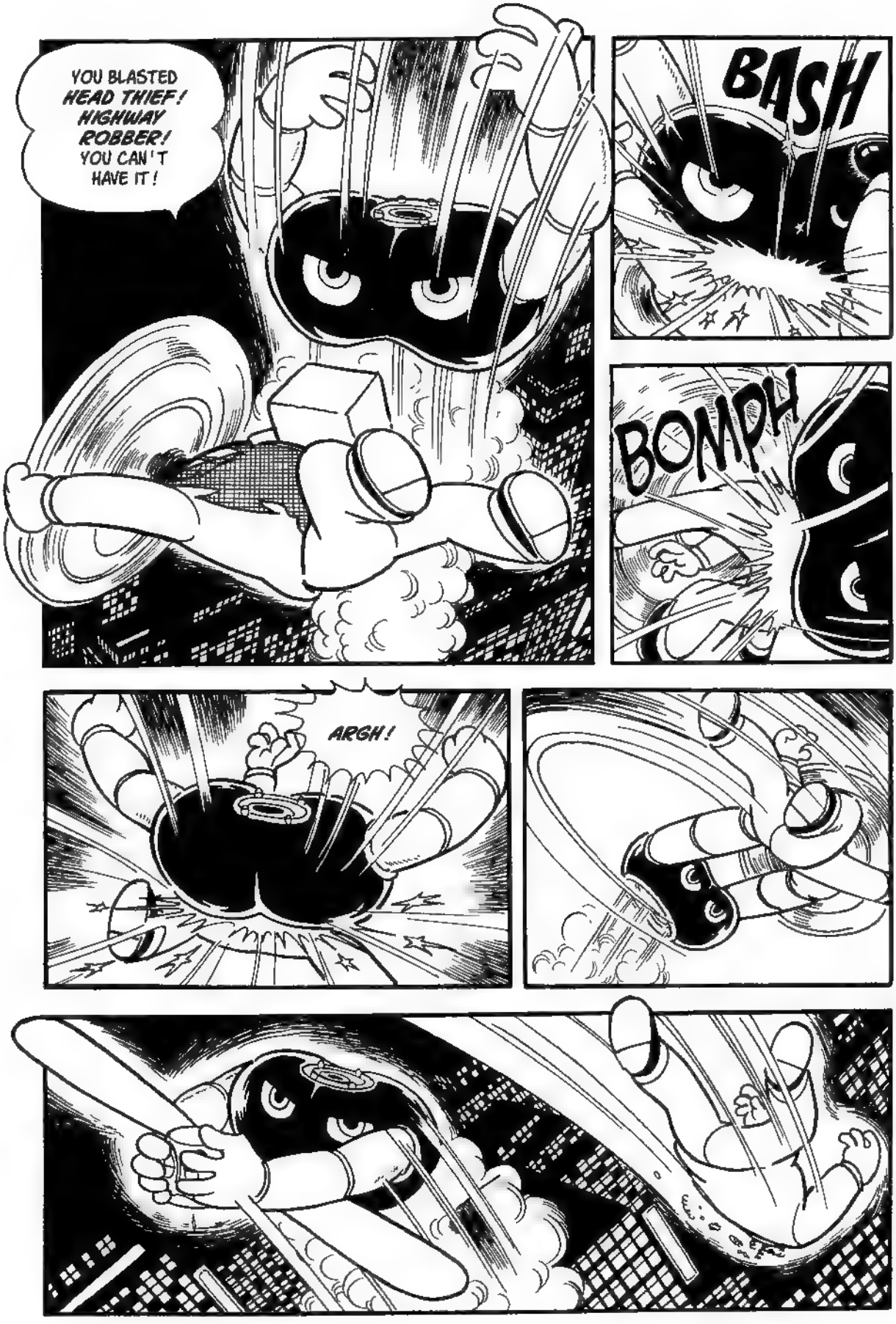
... AND AS A RESULT YOU ALSO LOST YOUR ABILITY TO REMEMBER AND DO ANY WORK...
... BUT WITH A TEMPORARY ELECTRO-BRAIN AND A VOICE BOX, YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET BY.
YES, I'M VERY GRATE-FUL.
I WANT YOU TO STICK TO LIGHT WORK UNTIL YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL, OKAY?
IS THERE ANY WAY I GET BACK MY ORIGINAL HEAD?
NOPE. SAYS HERE IT WAS BLOWN TO BITS WITH THE ROCKET.
LISTEN, DR. MAXUN!!
I DON'T THINK MY HEAD WAS BLOWN TO BITS!
YOU WHAT?
I WAS TRICKED! MY HEAD WAS STOLEN FROM ME!

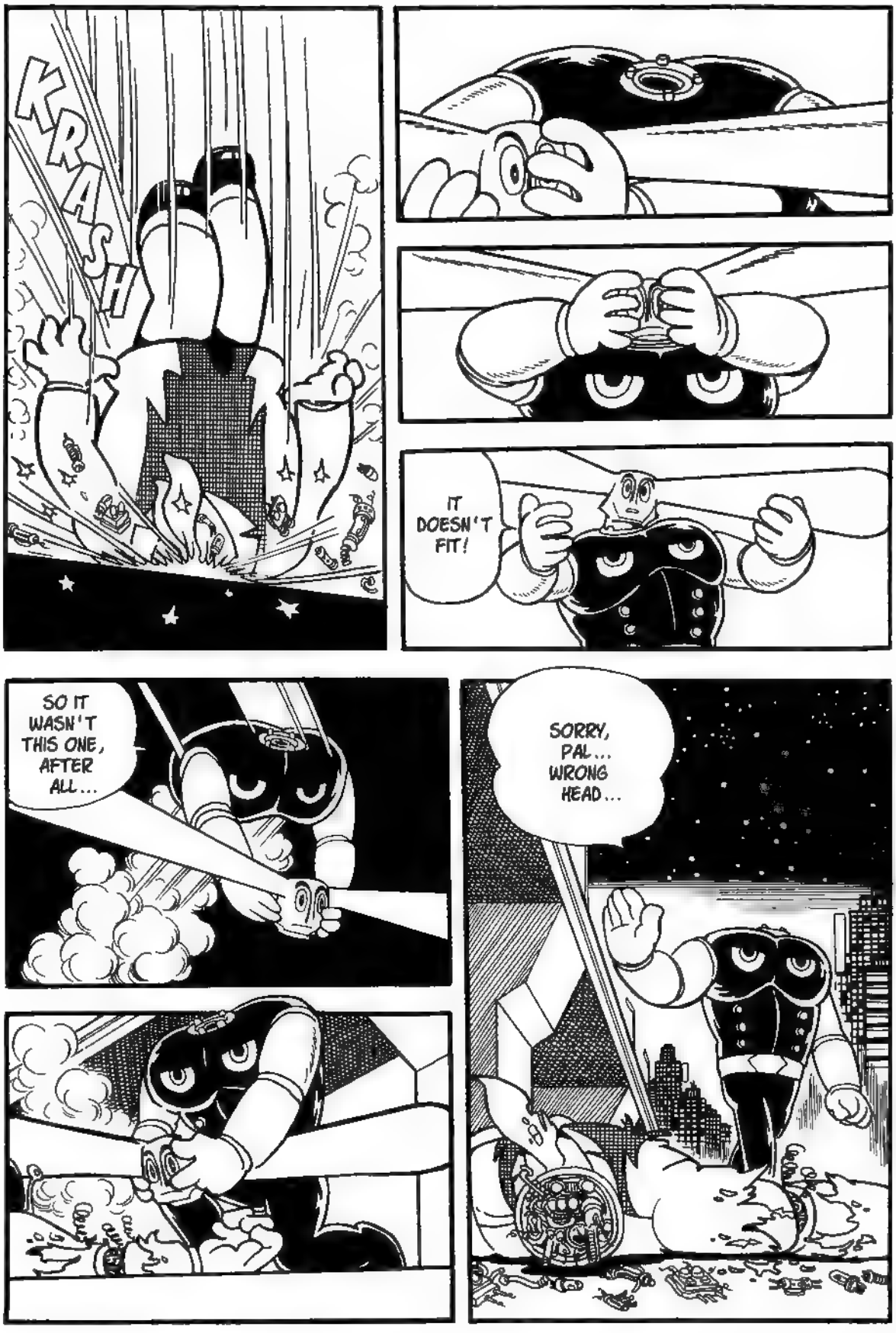

I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET, DAMDAM, BUT WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT WAS STOLEN?!
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! WHY WOULD JUST MY HEAD BLOW UP, AND EVERYTHING ELSE BE PERFECTLY FINE?
"I WAS DOING HEAVY LABOR AT THE MOON BASE... NORMALLY, A LITTLE EXPLOSION WOULDN'T EVEN FAZE ME..."
"BUT IF SOMEONE TRIED TO STEAL YOUR HEAD, DAMDAM, SURELY *YOU'D* BE THE FIRST TO KNOW..."
"I STAGGERED AWAY FROM THE EXPLOSION, AND COLLAPSED, UNCONSCIOUS"
THAT'S JUST IT...

... AND THAT'S WHEN MY HEAD WAS STOLEN!
Y-YOU MUST BE IMAGINING THINGS...
NEVER!!
I KNOW SOMEONE STOLE MY HEAD, AND THEY'RE PROBABLY AROUND HERE!
IT COULD EVEN BE YOU...
DON'T BE RIDIC-ULOUS, DAM-DAM!
I APPRECIATE YOUR REPAIRING ME, DR. MAXUM...
...BUT I AM GOING TO GET MY HEAD BACK!
...EVEN IF I HAVE TO SEARCH THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD...


OVERLY WEAK SOUND EFFECT
CLICK
CLICK
CORRECT SOUND EFFECT
KRUNCH
KRUNCH
HOLD IT!!
KERTHUD
GIVE ME YOUR HEAD...
FWP
WHAT THE--?

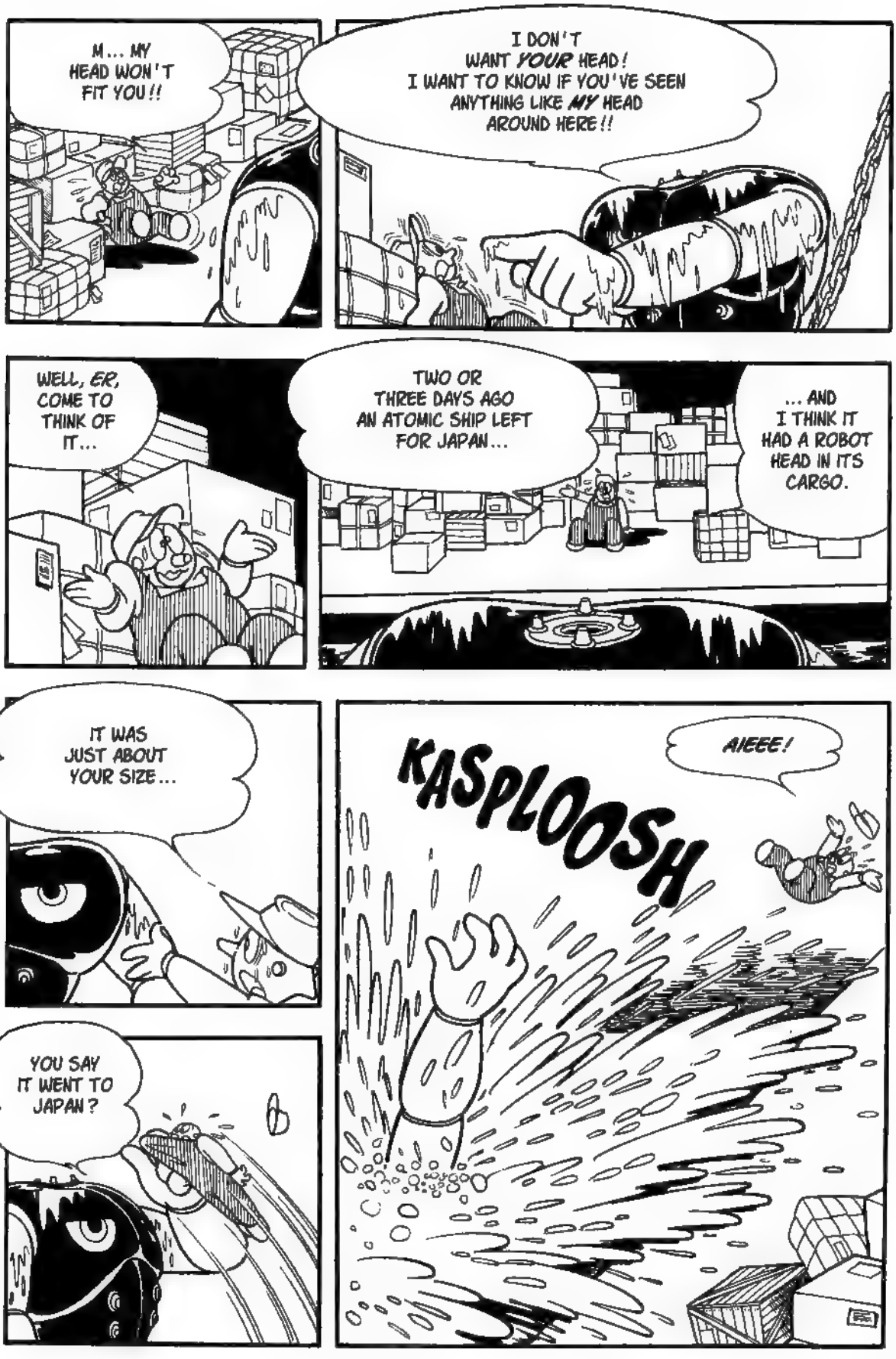

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING ALL OVER FOR MY HEAD. I WANT TO TRY YOURS...
YOU MUST BE JOKING!
BUT THIS IS MY HEAD! THE ONLY ONE I'VE GOT! IF I LOSE IT, I'LL DIE!!
TOO BAD. I WANT IT.
NEVER!!
STOP!

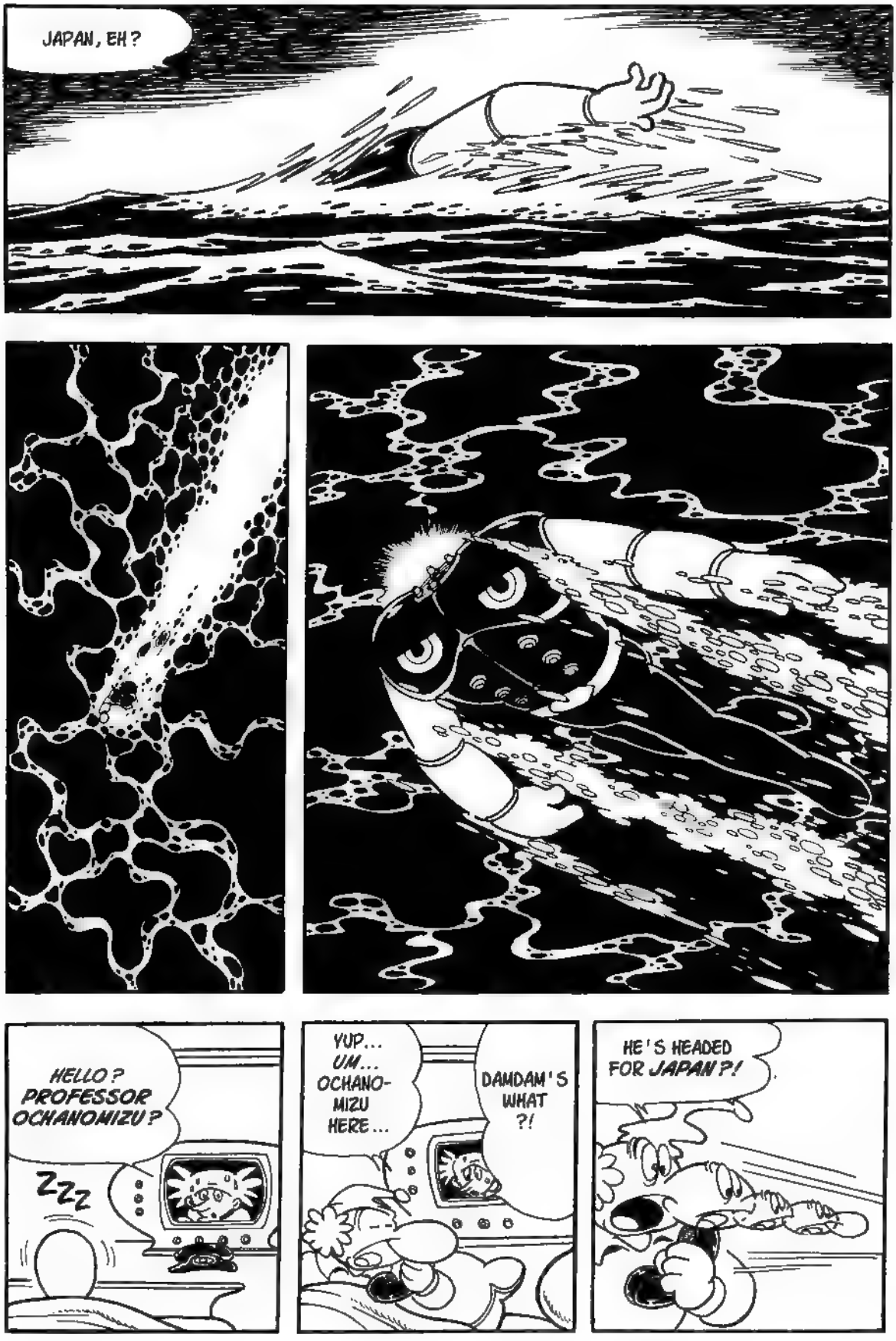

YOU BLASTED HEAD THIEF! HIGHWAY ROBBER! YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!
BASH
BOMPH
ARGH!

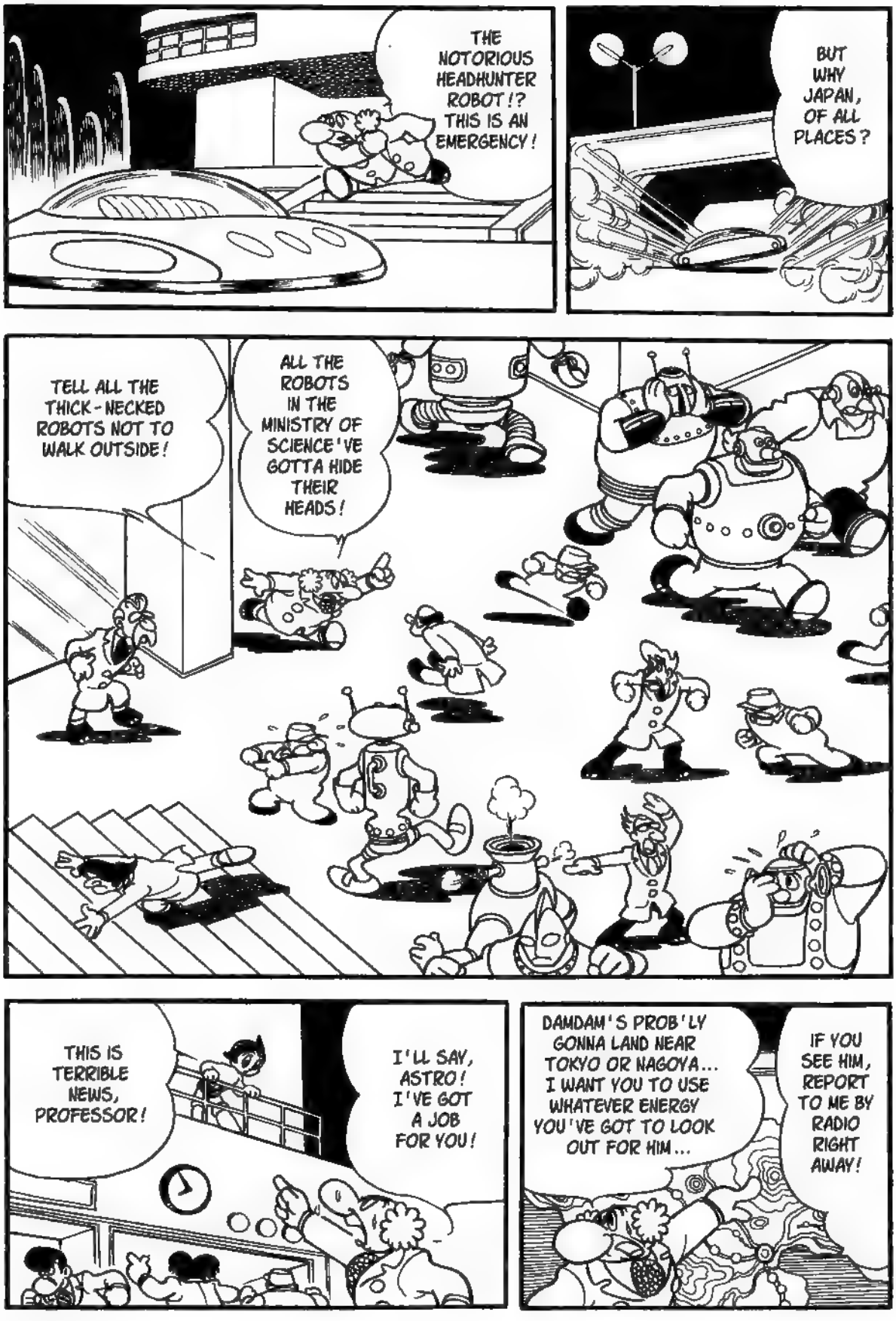

KRASH
IT DOESN'T FIT!
SO IT WASN'T THIS ONE, AFTER ALL...
SORRY, PAL... WRONG HEAD...

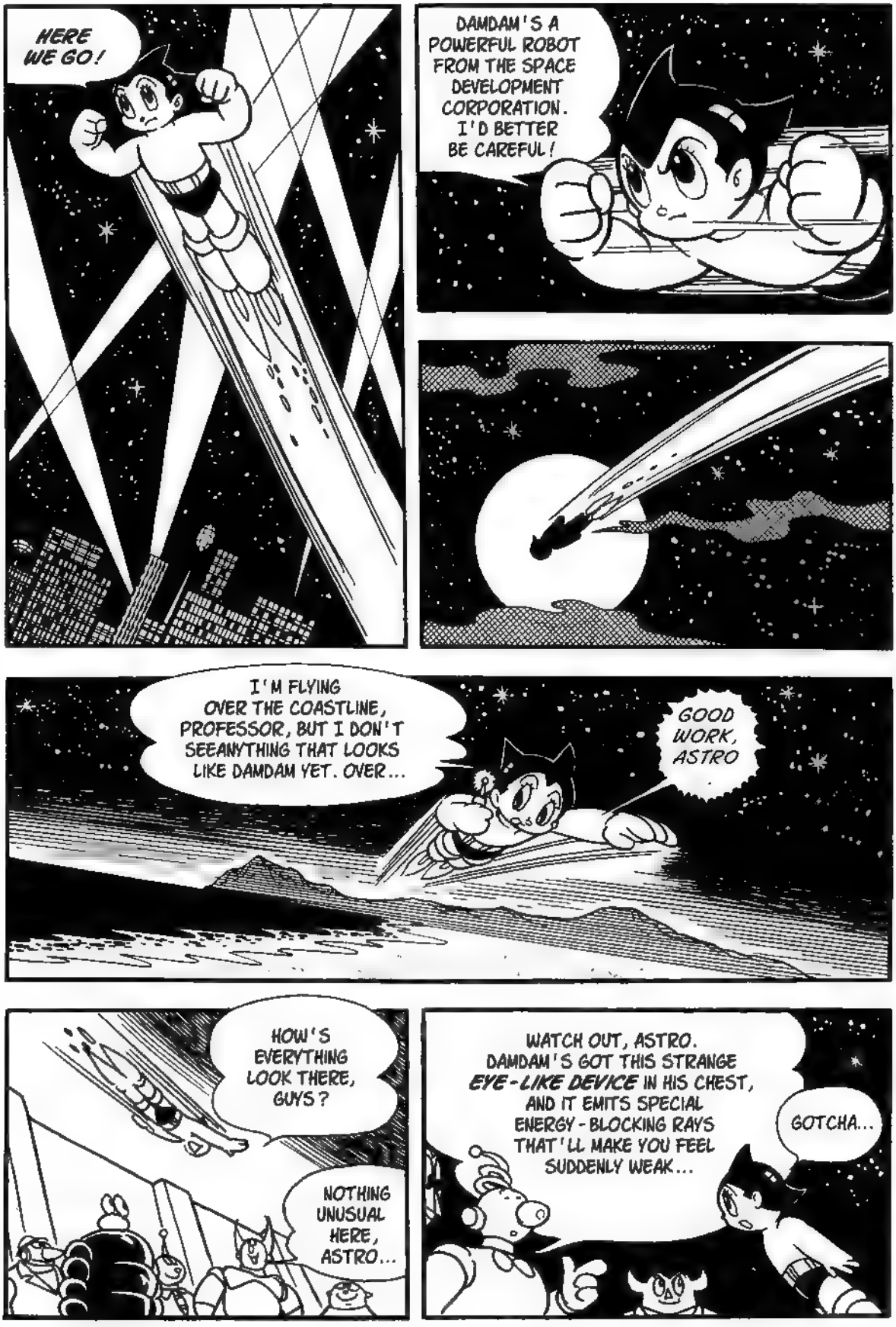
MIDNIGHT HEAD ROBBER!
MYSTERIOUS ROBOT
I NEED TO BORROW YOUR HEAD...
THIS DOESN'T FIT, EITHER!
THAT'S FOURTEEN I'VE TRIED!
FIFTEEN...
...AND IT'S NO GOOD EITHER...
CITY ON SPECIAL ALERT!
INCIDENTS INCREASE! INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY
WHEEEEE
WHEEEE
WHEEE

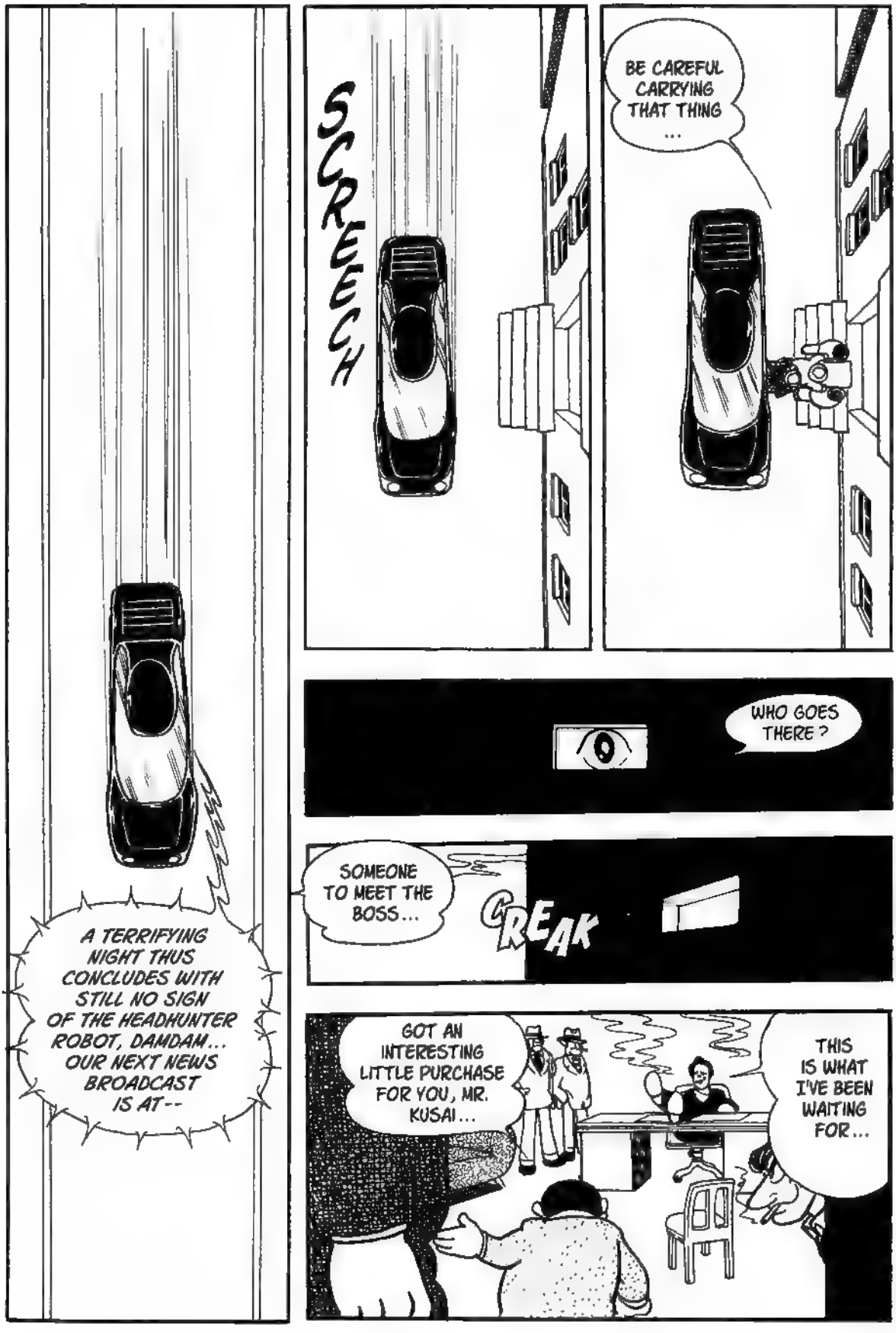
DR. MAXUN TESTIFIES! DAMDAM IS RESPONSIBLE!
ALL LOS ANGELES TREMBLES IN FEAR, WONDERING HOW LONG THIS CRAZED ROBOT WILL CONTINUE HIS HEADHUNTING RAMPAGE!
WHAT'S THE LAPD DOING?!
HOW CAN THEY LET THE HEAD-HUNTER GET AWAY WITH THIS ?!
EVEN THE KIDS ARE STARTING TO IMITATE THAT DAMDAM ROBOT!
THEY THINK ROBOT HEADHUNTING'S COOL!
SPLOSH
WHAT THE--?! IT'S DAMDAM!! HAAALP!
I NEED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING ...
OKAY, TAKE 'ER UP EASY ...


M... MY HEAD WON'T FIT YOU!!
I DON'T WANT YOUR HEAD! I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU'VE SEEN ANYTHING LIKE MY HEAD AROUND HERE!!
WELL, ER, COME TO THINK OF IT...
TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO AN ATOMIC SHIP LEFT FOR JAPAN...
... AND I THINK IT HAD A ROBOT HEAD IN ITS CARGO.
IT WAS JUST ABOUT YOUR SIZE...
KASPLOOSH
AIEEE!
YOU SAY IT WENT TO JAPAN?


JAPAN, EH?
HELLO? PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU?
ZZZ
YUP... UM... OCHANO-MIZU HERE...
DAMDAM'S WHAT?!
HE'S HEADED FOR JAPAN?!


THE NOTORIOUS HEADHUNTER ROBOT!? THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
BUT WHY JAPAN, OF ALL PLACES?
TELL ALL THE THICK-NECKED ROBOTS NOT TO WALK OUTSIDE!
ALL THE ROBOTS IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE'VE GOTTA HIDE THEIR HEADS!
THIS IS TERRIBLE NEWS, PROFESSOR!
I'LL SAY, ASTRO! I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU!
DAMDAM'S PROB'LY GONNA LAND NEAR TOKYO OR NAGOYA... I WANT YOU TO USE WHATEVER ENERGY YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK OUT FOR HIM...
IF YOU SEE HIM, REPORT TO ME BY RADIO RIGHT AWAY!

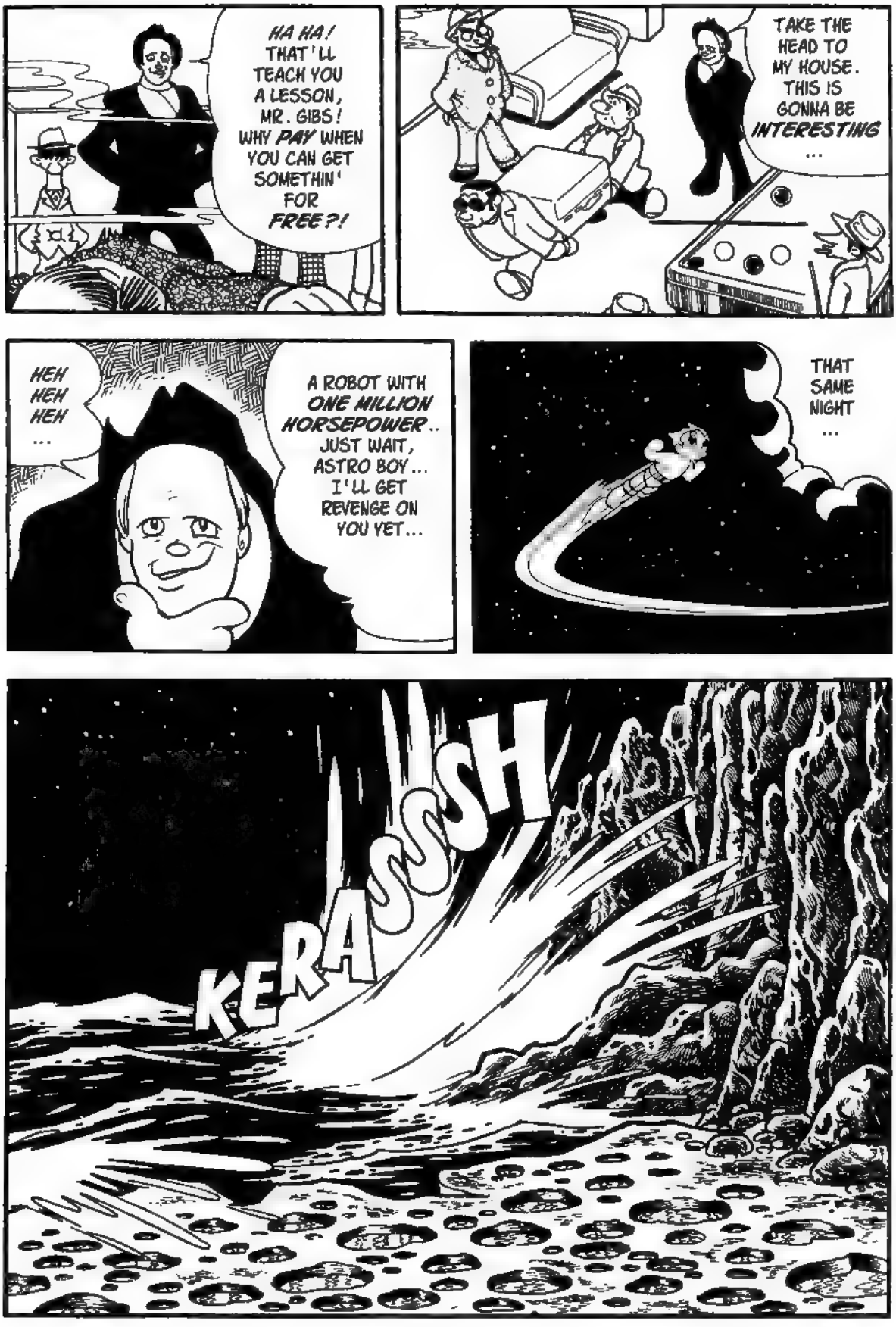

HERE WE GO!
DAMDAM'S A POWERFUL ROBOT FROM THE SPACE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL!
I'M FLYING OVER THE COASTLINE, PROFESSOR, BUT I DON'T SEEANYTHING THAT LOOKS LIKE DAMDAM YET. OVER...
GOOD WORK, ASTRO
HOW'S EVERYTHING LOOK THERE, GUYS?
NOTHING UNUSUAL HERE, ASTRO...
WATCH OUT, ASTRO. DAMDAM'S GOT THIS STRANGE EYE-LIKE DEVICE IN HIS CHEST, AND IT EMITS SPECIAL ENERGY-BLOCKING RAYS THAT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL SUDDENLY WEAK...
GOTCHA...

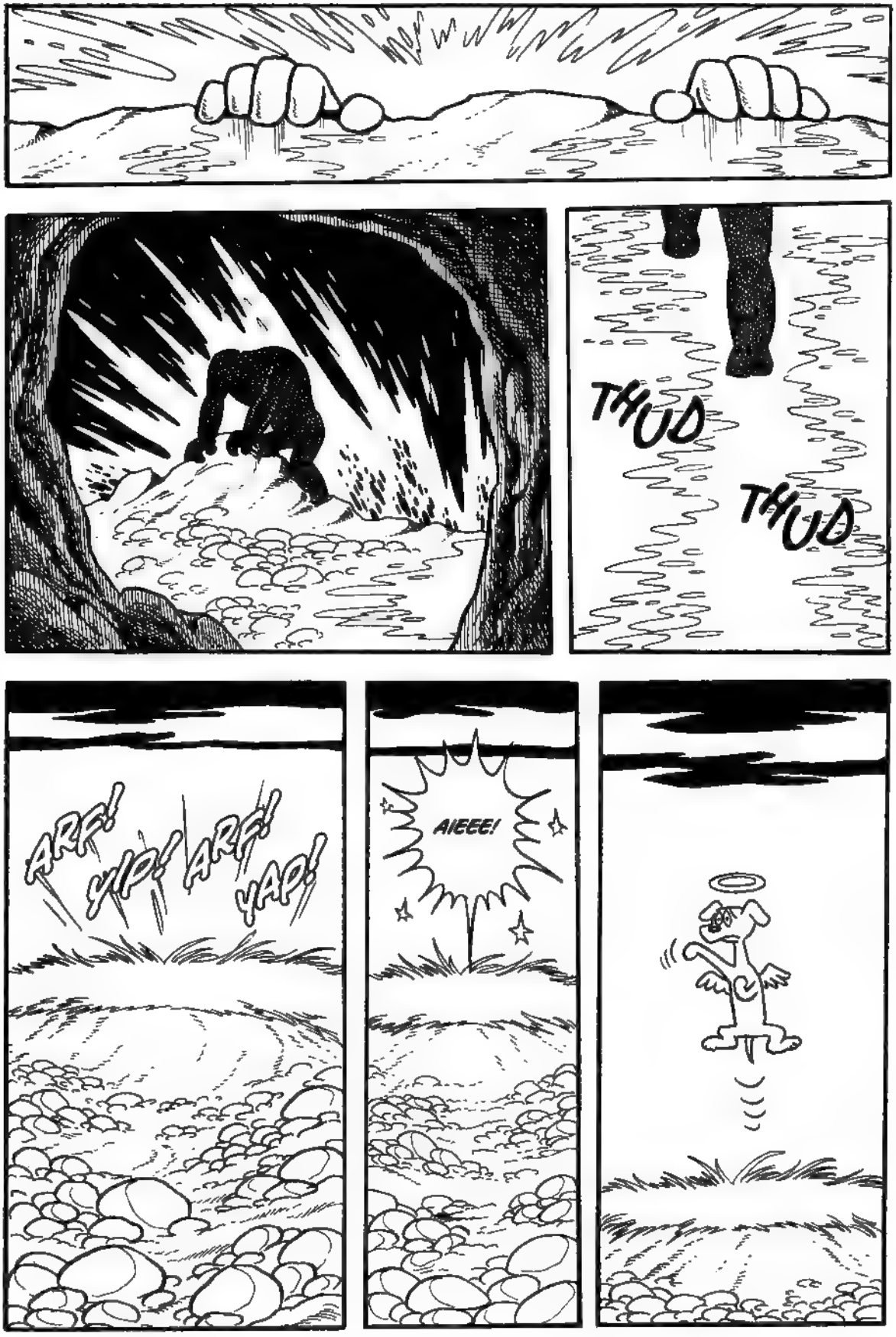

SCREECH
BE CAREFUL CARRYING THAT THING ...
WHO GOES THERE ?
SOMEONE TO MEET THE BOSS...
CREAK
GOT AN INTERESTING LITTLE PURCHASE FOR YOU, MR. KUSAI...
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...
A TERRIFYING NIGHT THUS CONCLUDES WITH STILL NO SIGN OF THE HEADHUNTER ROBOT, DAMDAM... OUR NEXT NEWS BROADCAST IS AT--

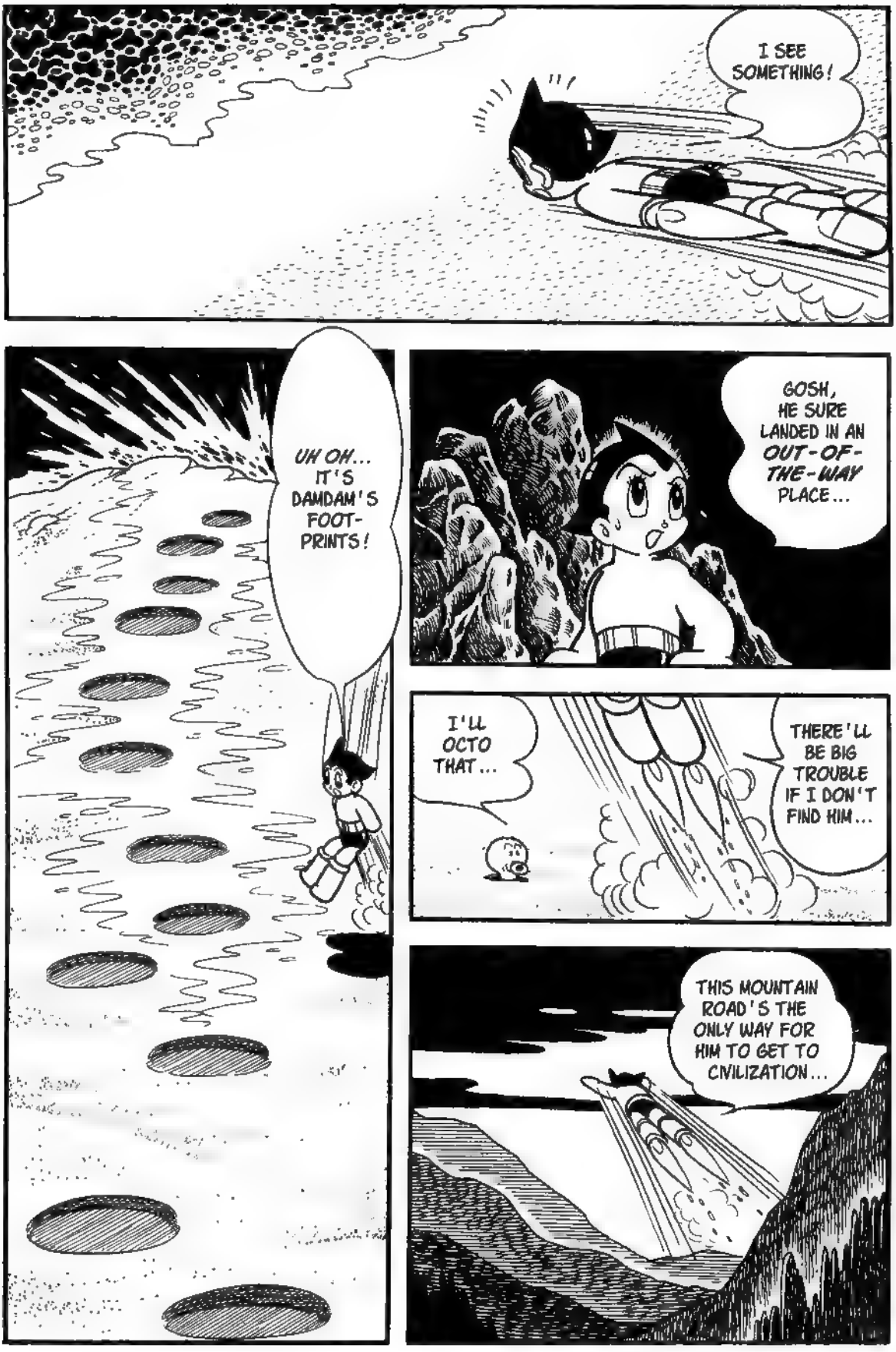
THIS GENTLEMAN HERE'S MR. GIBS, A ROBOT MERCHANT FROM AMERICA, BOSS...
WELL, IF HE'S HAWKING JUNK ROBOTS, WE DON'T NEED ANY ...
WHAT THE --?!!
IT'S APPARENTLY DAMDAM'S HEAD, BOSS...
THE HEADHUNTER ROBOT'S HEAD?!
HOW'D YOU GET A HOLD OF THAT?
YOU STEAL THAT THING, MR. GIBS?
HEH HEH
THIS IS QUITE A SURPISE YOU'VE BROUGHT US...
SO, HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT FOR IT?

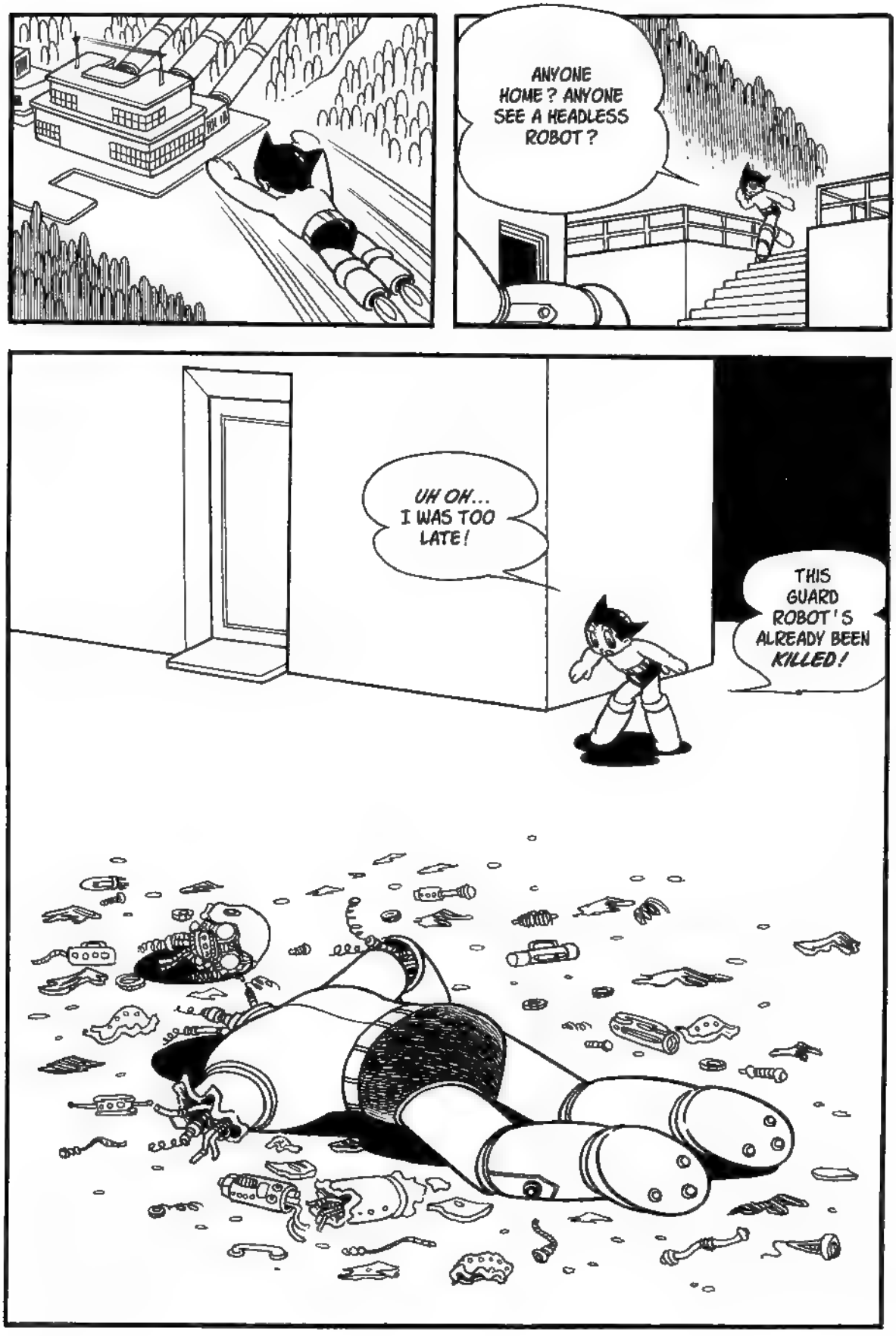
500 THOU!
FIVE...
FOR ONE ROBOT HEAD?! YOU MUST BE KIDDING!
HUNDRED...
THOU...
?
THAT'S CHEAP, MR. KUSAI! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
PUT THIS THING ON DAMDAM AND HE'LL HAVE ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER!
HANG ON... YOU MEAN WITH THIS HEAD HE CAN GENERATE THAT MUCH POWER?
HAI.
THAT'S RIGHT. BUILD ANY BODY FOR THIS THING, AND YOU'LL HAVE THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL ROBOT!

HMM... THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL ROBOT, EH? SOMETHING ABOUT THIS STINKS. WHO'S GONNA PAY FOR THE HEAD AND MAKE A BODY, TOO?
YOU CAN, MR. KUSAI. EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU'RE RICH...
ARE YOU KIDDING? WITH ASTRO BOY AROUND, NOTHING I DO MAKES ANY MONEY !!
SORRY, MR. GIBS, BUT I CAN'T AFFORD YOUR ROBOT HEAD... YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY SOMEPLACE ELSE...
I SEE... 'GUESS I'LL TAKE IT TO HONG KONG, THEN...
BLAM
BLAM
ADIOS!
THUD
PHWEW


HA HA! THAT'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON, MR. GIBS! WHY PAY WHEN YOU CAN GET SOMETHIN' FOR FREE?!
TAKE THE HEAD TO MY HOUSE. THIS IS GONNA BE INTERESTING ...
HEH HEH HEH ...
A ROBOT WITH ONE MILLION HORSEPOWER.. JUST WAIT, ASTRO BOY... I'LL GET REVENGE ON YOU YET...
THAT SAME NIGHT ...
KERASSSH!


THUD
THUD
ARF! YIP! ARF! YAP!
AIEEE!


I SEE SOMETHING!
UH OH... IT'S DAMDAM'S FOOT-PRINTS!
GOSH, HE SURE LANDED IN AN OUT-OF-THE-WAY PLACE...
I'LL OCTO THAT...
THERE'LL BE BIG TROUBLE IF I DON'T FIND HIM...
THIS MOUNTAIN ROAD'S THE ONLY WAY FOR HIM TO GET TO CIVILIZATION...

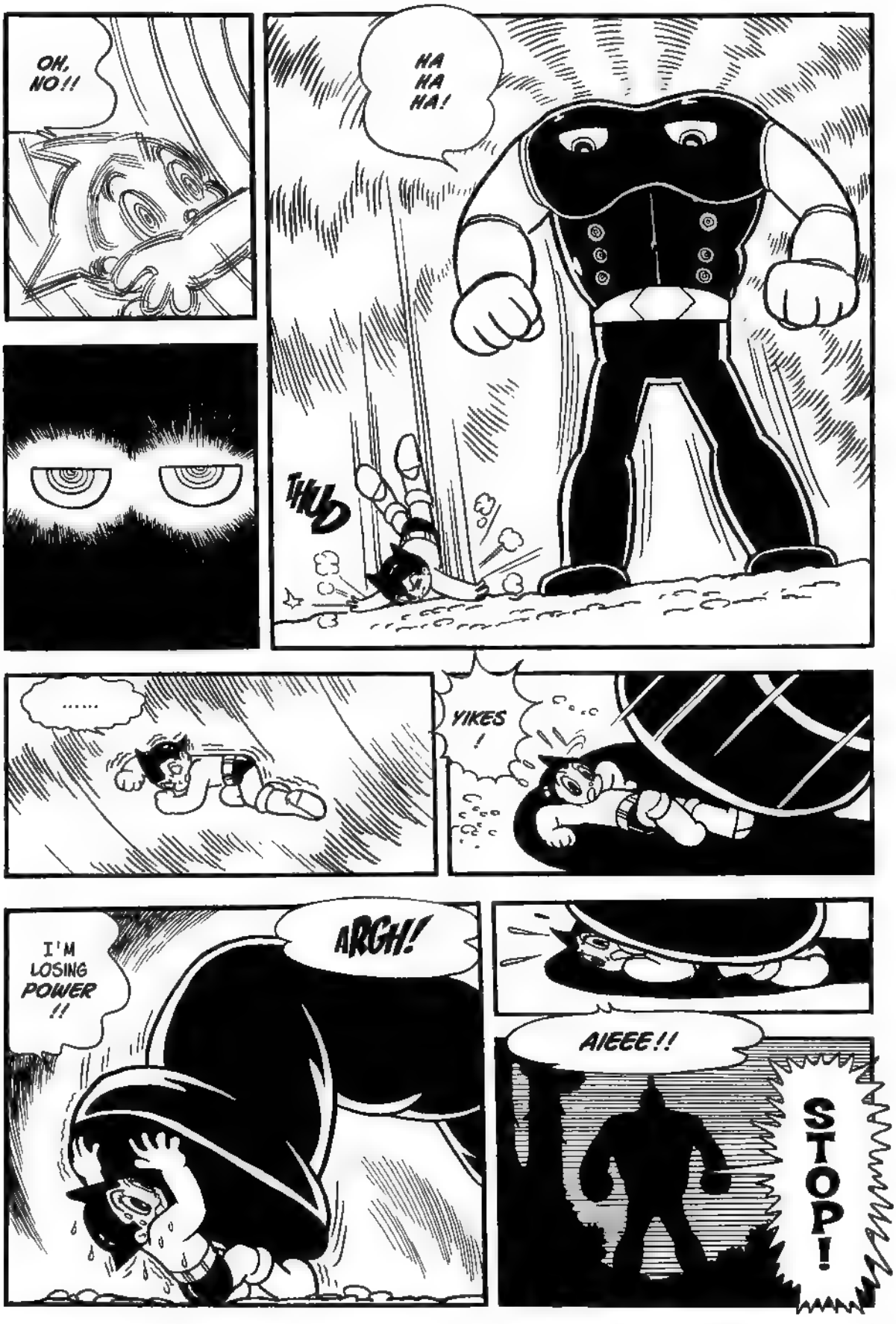

ANYONE HOME? ANYONE SEE A HEADLESS ROBOT?
UH OH... I WAS TOO LATE!
THIS GUARD ROBOT'S ALREADY BEEN KILLED!

THERE HE IS! I FOUND HIM!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, PUNY ROBOT? I DON'T NEED ANY ONE TO COME WITH ME...
IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND, DAMDAM... YOU'RE COMING WITH ME...
WHERE TO?
THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE ...
WHY SHOULD I GO THERE?
SO PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU CAN TURN OFF YOUR ENERGY...

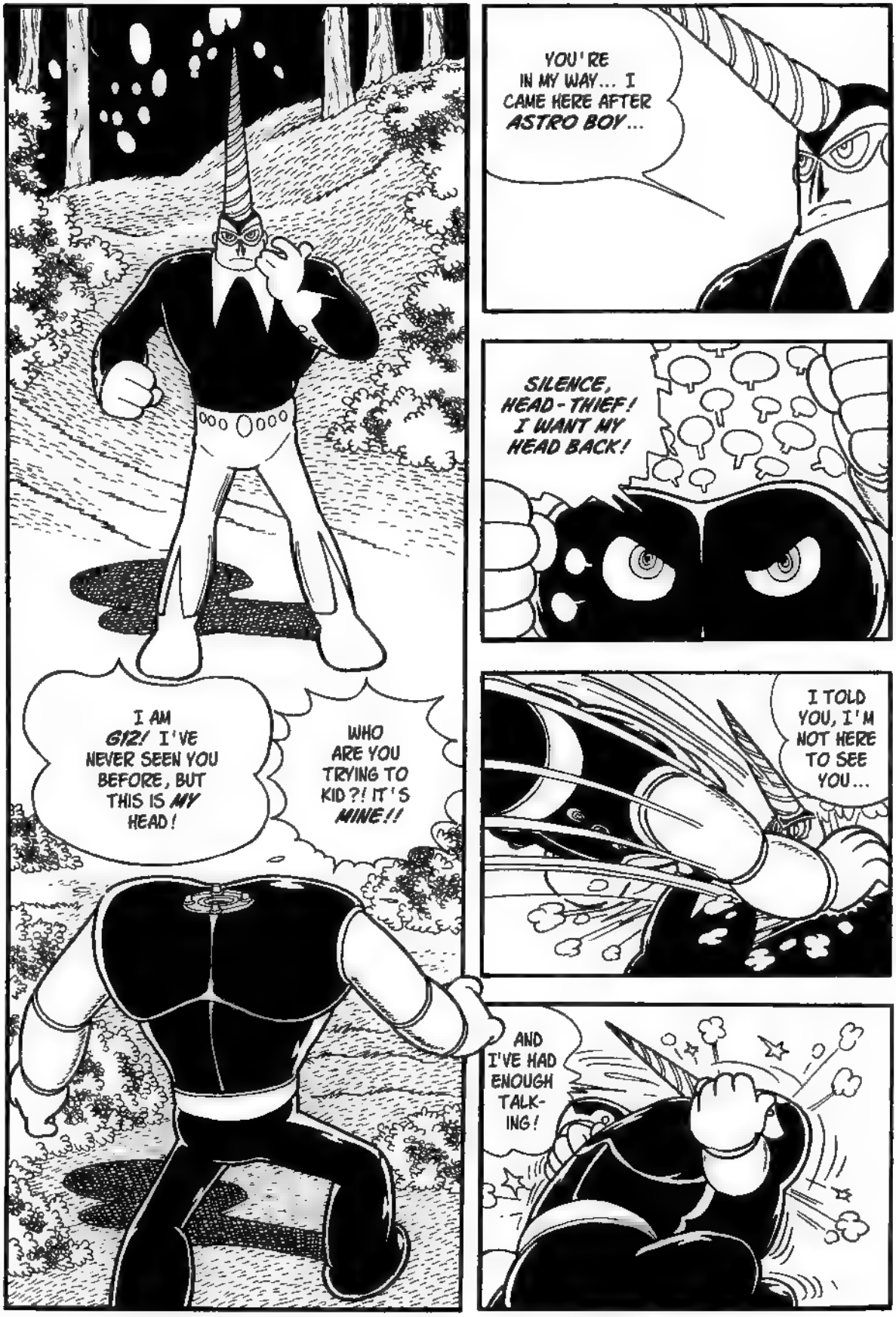
HMPH. IF HE'D GIVE ME BACK MY HEAD, I MIGHT THINK ABOUT IT, BUT I DON'T LIKE BEING KEPT IN ONE PLACE..
YOU HAVE TO STOP, DAMDAM ...
YOU'RE CAN'T GO AROUND RIPPING THE HEADS OFF INNOCENT ROBOTS! ESPECIALLY NOT IN JAPAN!
I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU!
TOUGH TALK FROM SUCH A LITTLE FELLOW... I'LL KEEP TRYING ON HEADS — 1,000, EVEN 10,000 OF 'EM, IF I HAVE TO...
NOT WHILE I'M HERE, DAMDAM...
JUST TRY AND STOP ME!
TAKE THIS!

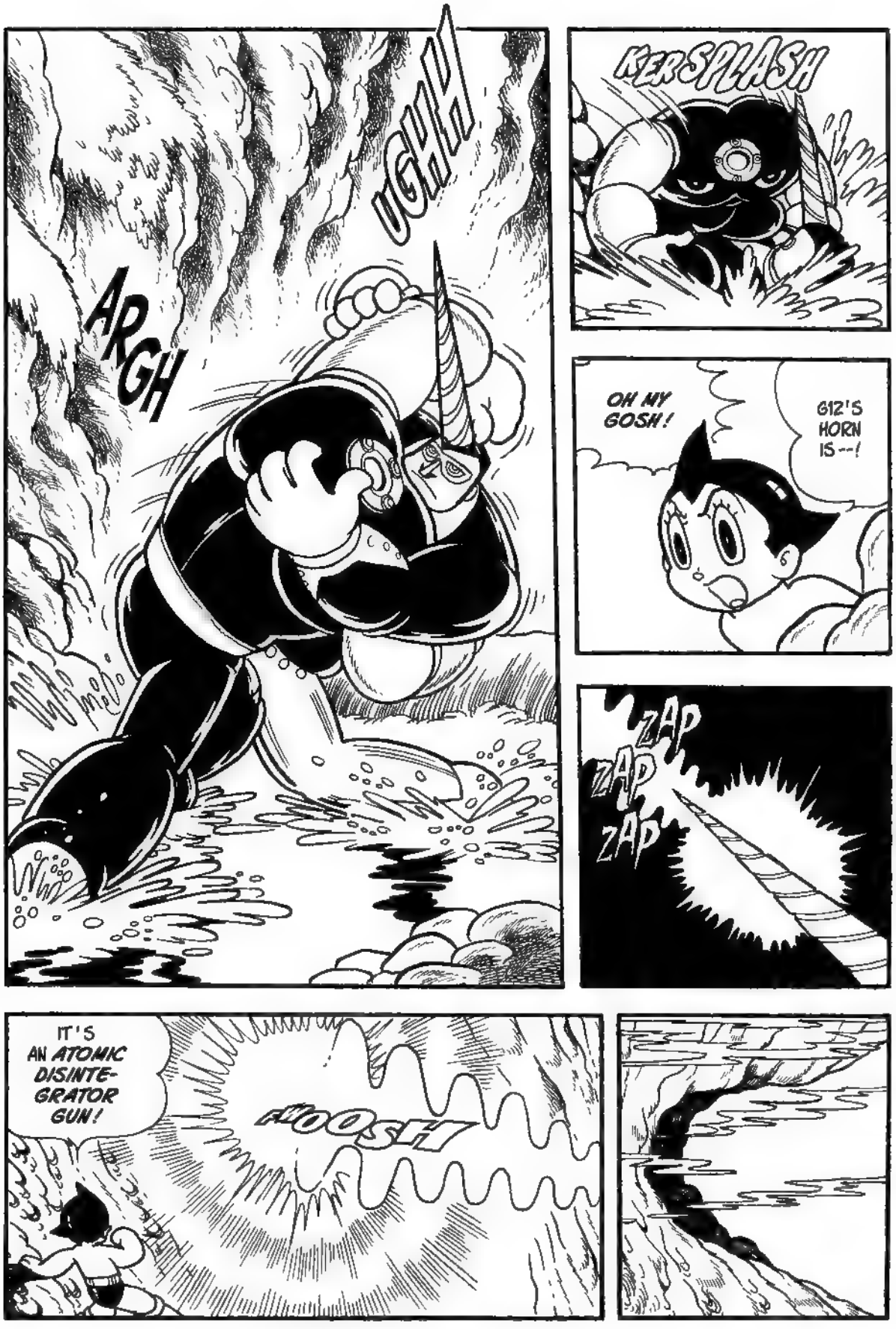
KATHUD
GRRR
WOW... I HIT HIM WITH NEARLY A MILLION HORSEPOWER, AND HE'S STILL STANDING!
IF HE HAD A HEAD, HE'D REALLY BE SCARY!
VROOOM
AIEE!!
KABASH

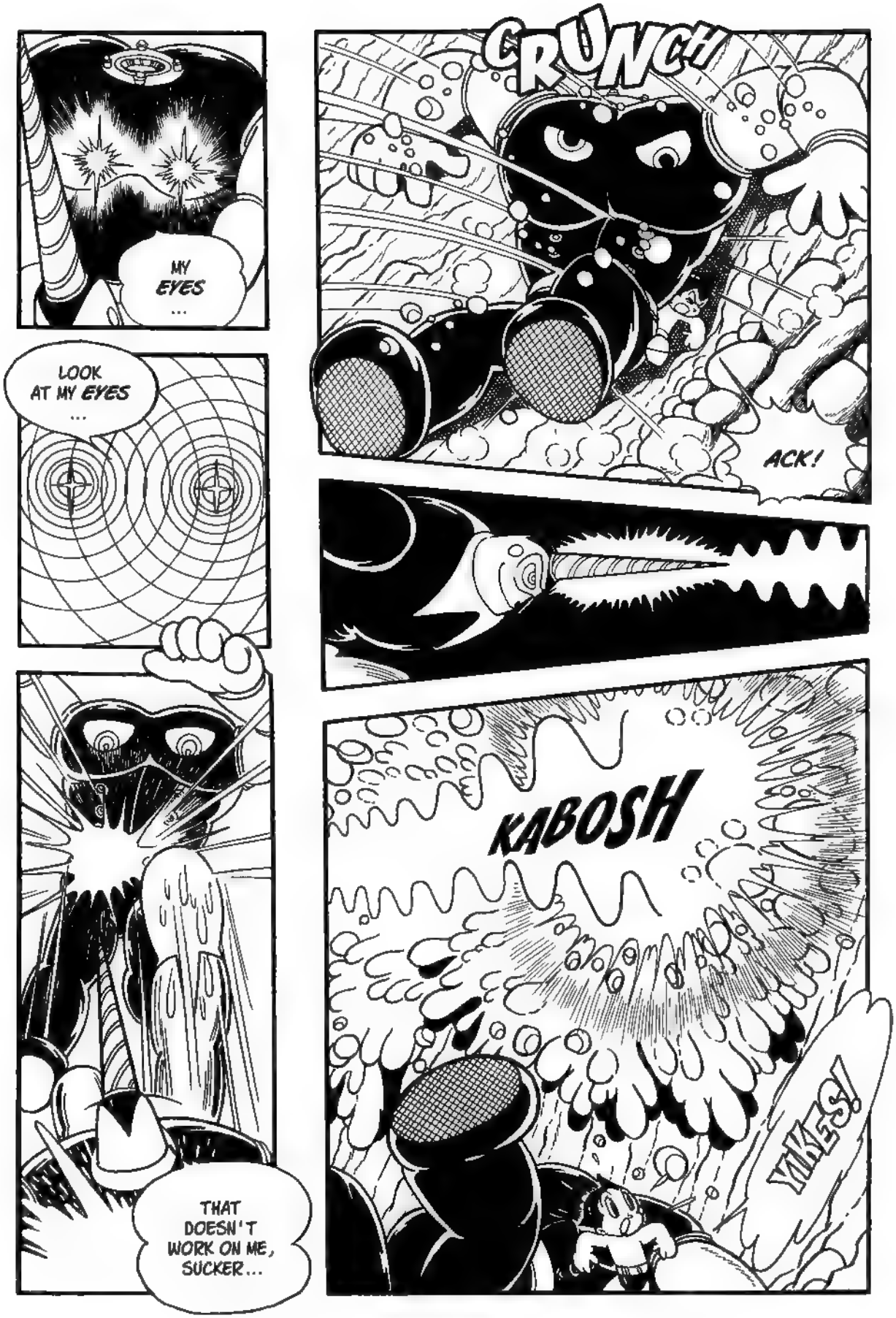
BAM
KABOOM
I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH HIS BODY-SLAMS!
TAKE THIS!
KABAM
UH OH... HIS EYES ...
HIS EYES ...

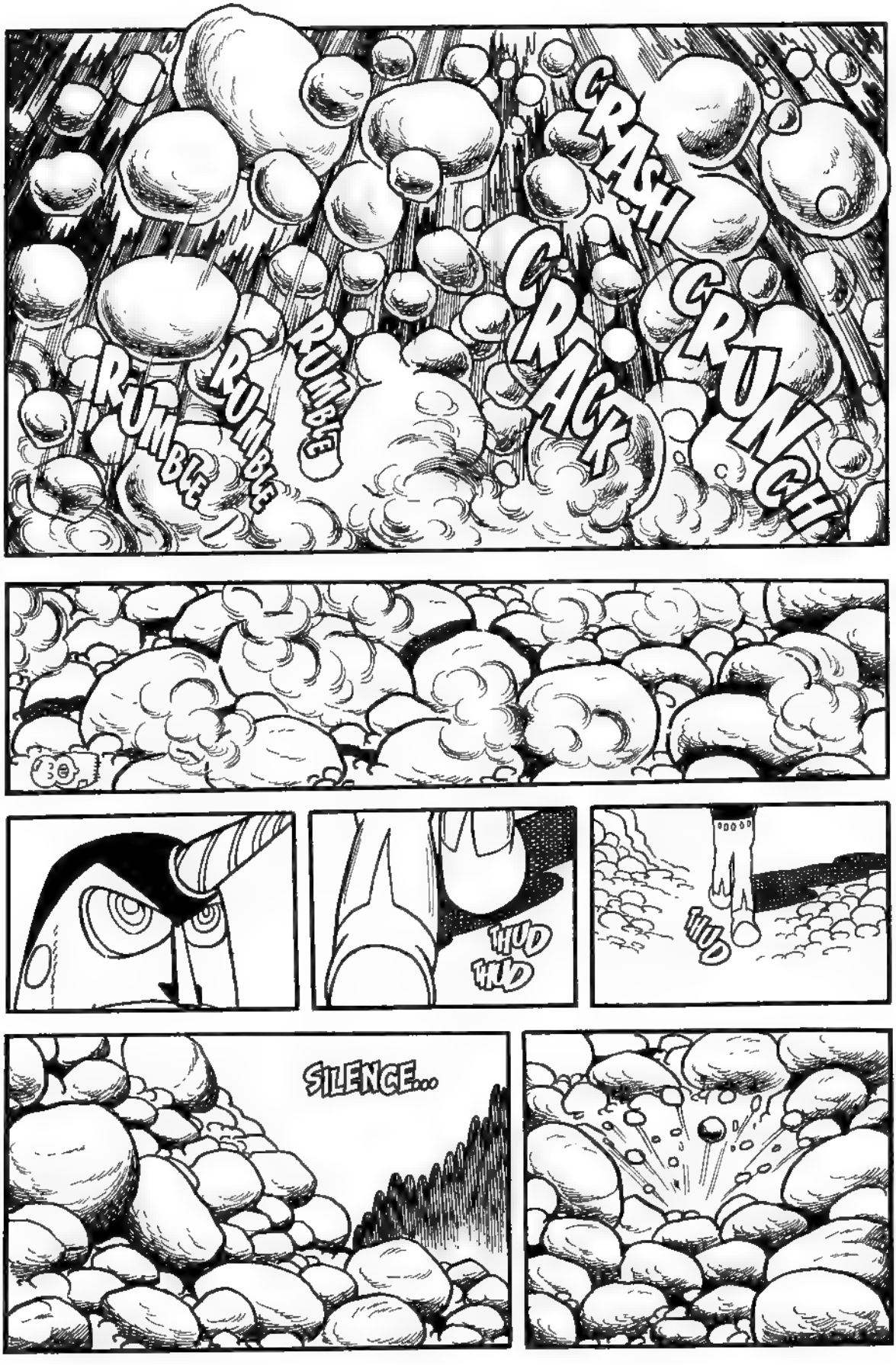

OH, NO!!
HA HA HA!
THUD
.....
YIKES!
I'M LOSING POWER!!
ARGH!
AIEEE!!
STOP!

WHO ARE YOU ?!
THAT HEAD! I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE!!
THAT'S MY HEAD!!

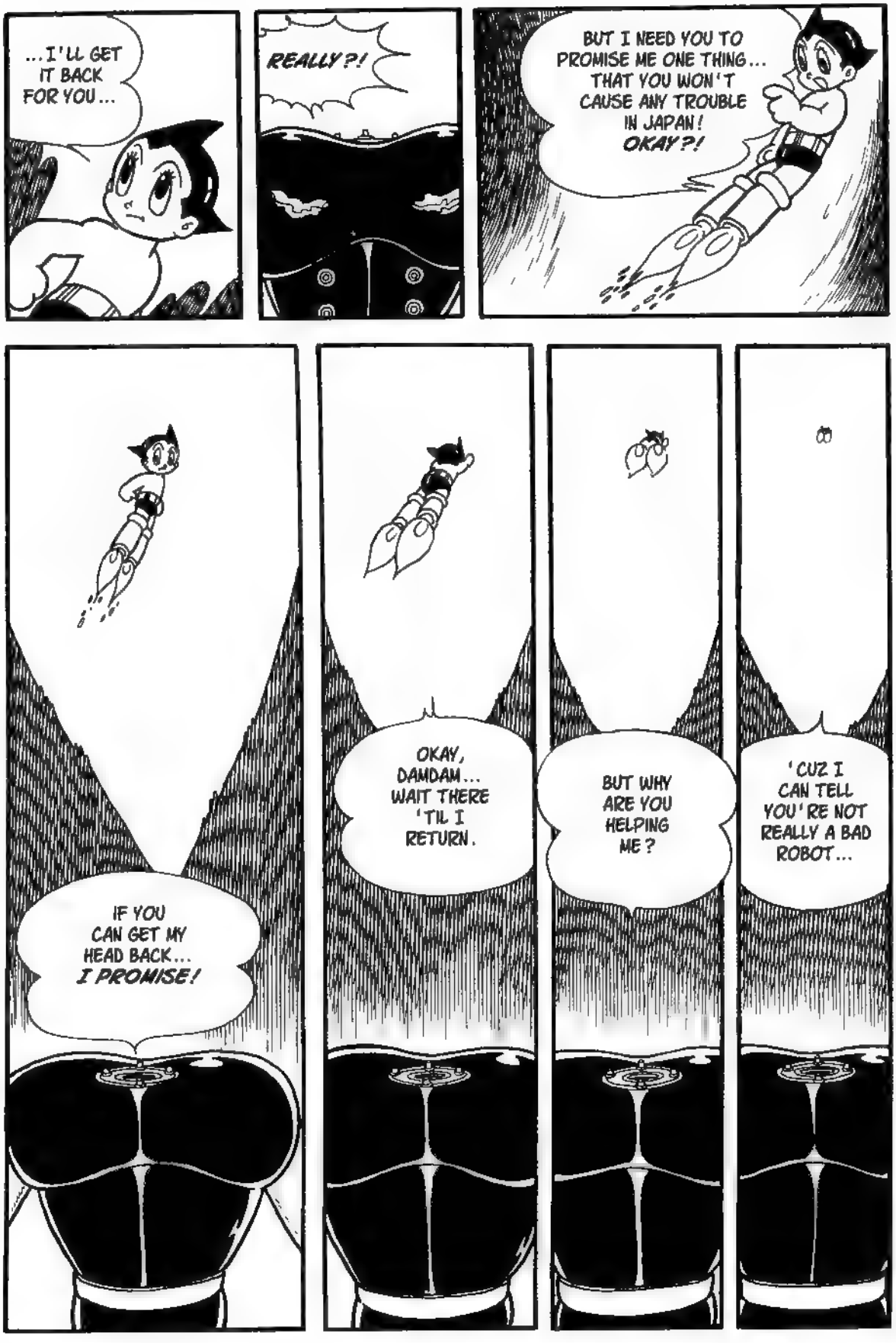

I AM GIZ! I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE, BUT THIS IS MY HEAD!
WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO KID?! IT'S MINE!!
YOU'RE IN MY WAY... I CAME HERE AFTER ASTRO BOY...
SILENCE, HEAD-THIEF! I WANT MY HEAD BACK!
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT HERE TO SEE YOU...
AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH TALK-ING!

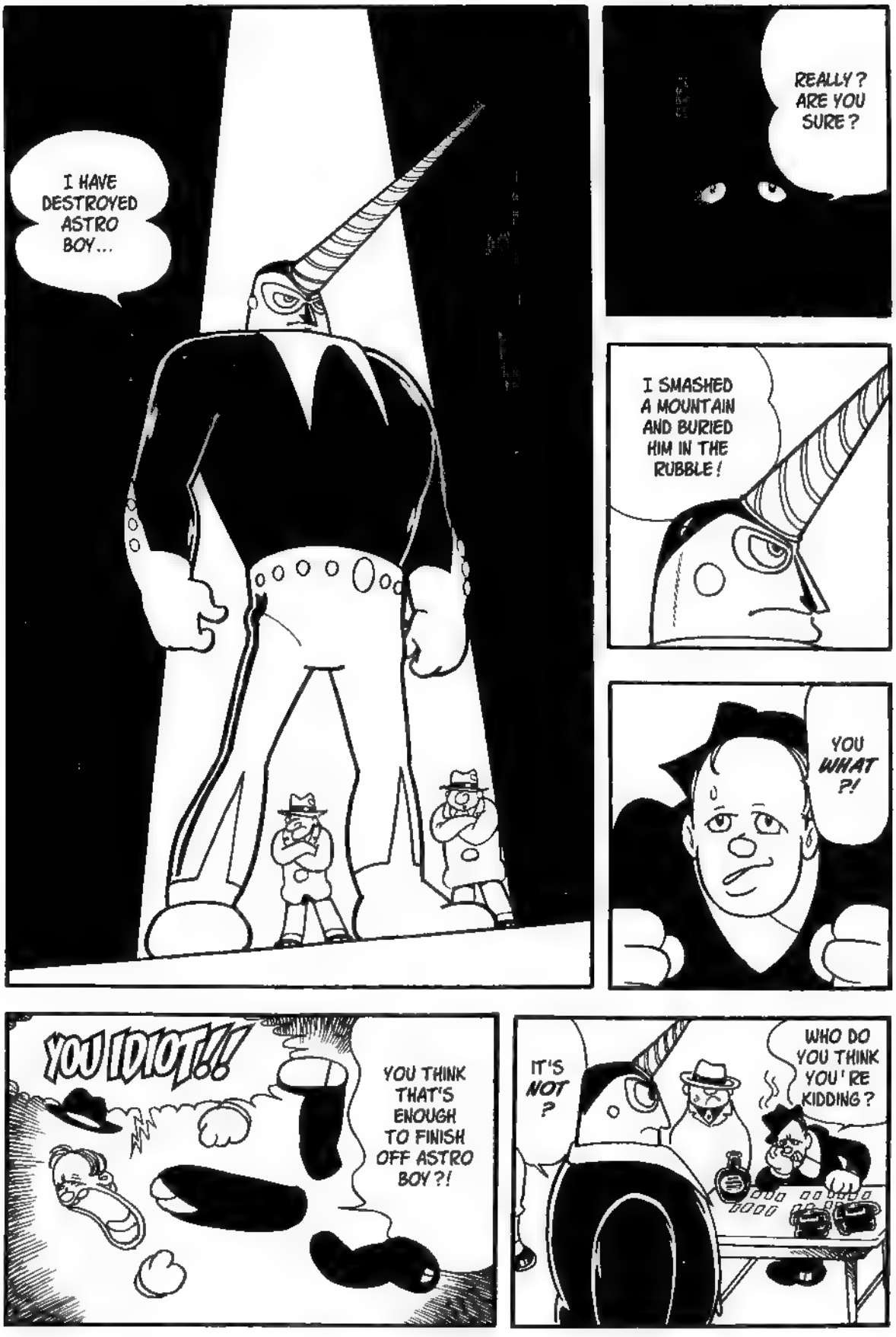

ARGH
UGH!!
KER-SPLASH
OH MY GOSH!
G12'S HORN IS--!
ZAP ZAP ZAP
IT'S AN ATOMIC DISINTE-GRATOR GUN!
WOOSH


MY EYES ...
LOOK AT MY EYES ...
THAT DOESN'T WORK ON ME, SUCKER...
CRUNCH!
ACK!
KABOSH
YIKES!

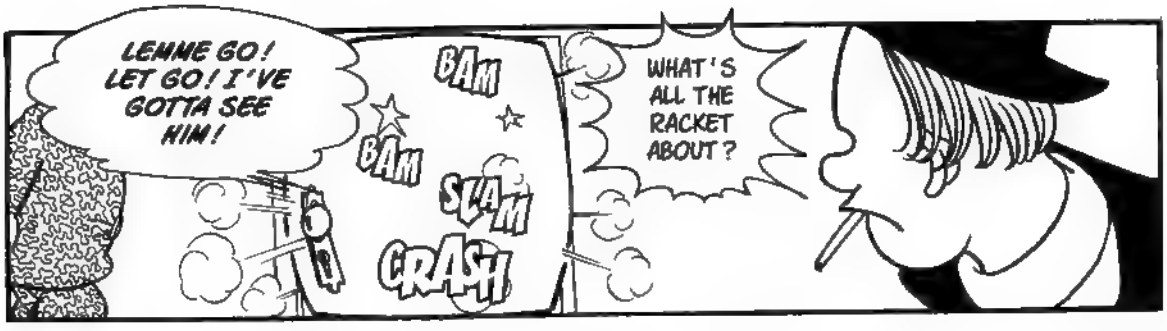

CRASH
CRUNCH
CRACK
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
THUD
THUD
THUD
SILENCE...

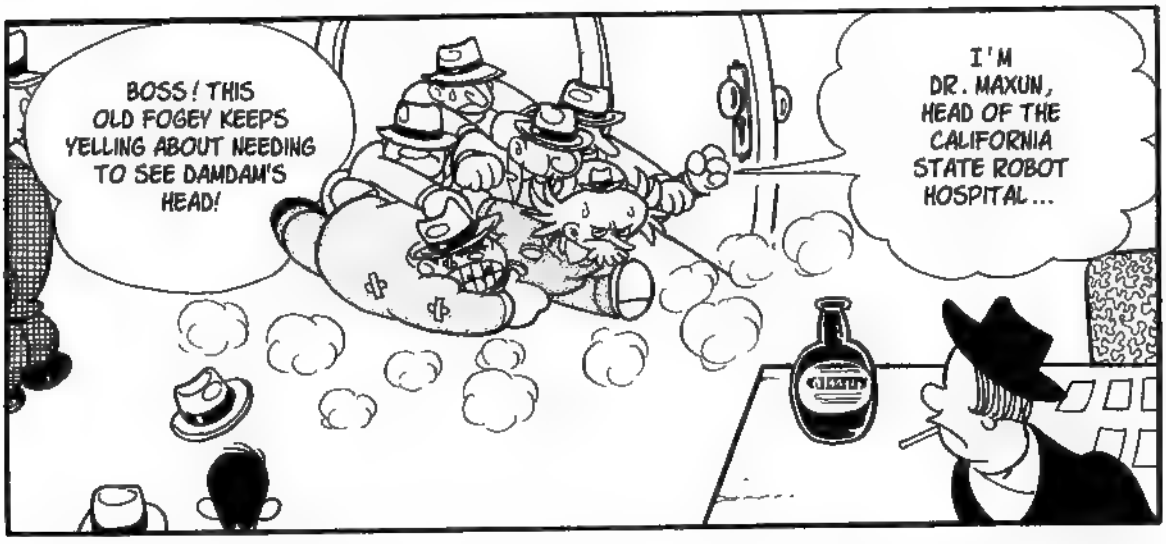
WOW... THAT WAS CLOSE...
DAMDAM! WHERE ARE YOU?
DAMDAM! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
HE GOT YOUR EYES...
HE'S GOT MY HEAD! IT'S MINE! I KNOW IT!!
BUT HE SAID IT WAS HIS, DAMDAM...
... AND ROBOT'S NORMALLY DON'T LIE...
SOMEBODY MUST HAVE FOUND MY HEAD AND PUT IT ON ANOTHER BODY!!
THAT'S WHY HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT'S MINE!
I TELL YOU WHAT, DAMDAM... IF IT REALLY IS YOUR HEAD...


...I'LL GET IT BACK FOR YOU...
REALLY?!
BUT I NEED YOU TO PROMISE ME ONE THING... THAT YOU WON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE IN JAPAN! OKAY?!
IF YOU CAN GET MY HEAD BACK... I PROMISE!
OKAY, DAMDAM... WAIT THERE 'TIL I RETURN.
BUT WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?
'CUZ I CAN TELL YOU'RE NOT REALLY A BAD ROBOT...

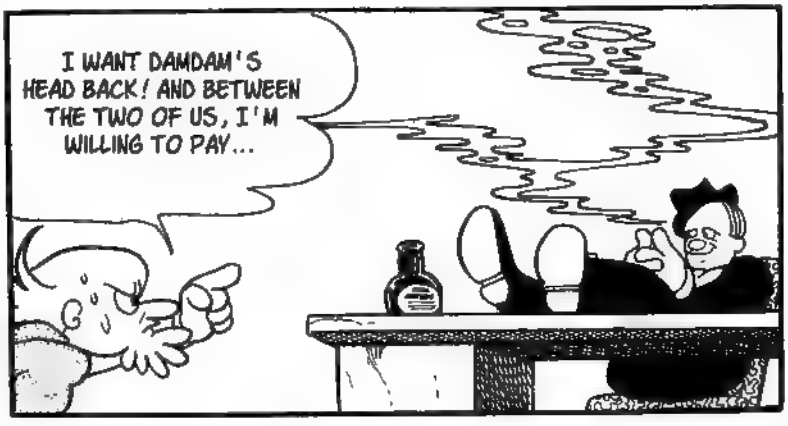

I HAVE DESTROYED ASTRO BOY...
REALLY? ARE YOU SURE?
I SMASHED A MOUNTAIN AND BURIED HIM IN THE RUBBLE!
YOU WHAT?!
YOU IDIOT!!
YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH TO FINISH OFF ASTRO BOY?!
IT'S NOT?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE KIDDING?

LISTEN, G12... I'VE TRIED TO GET RID OF ASTRO USING EVERYTHING FROM PACHINKO BALLS TO ATOM BOMBS... EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN AND THE MOON... AND NOTHING'S WORKED!!
SO I KNOW SMASHING A MOUNTAIN'S NOT GONNA DO THE TRICK...
NOW G12, AS I'M SURE YOU KNOW... YOU WERE A JUNK MODEL WE PICKED UP AT A FACTORY, AND ATTACHED A HEAD TO...
I SEE...
SO I'M THE ONE WHO GAVE YOU A HEAD!
YOU OUGHTA BE GRATE-FUL!
I AM...
WELL THEN SHOW IT, YOU MORON! THE SCOWL ON YOUR MUG BUGS ME!
SMASH
MY FACE IS NOT DESIGNED TO SMILE...
WELL, I WANT YOU TO FIND ASTRO AGAIN AND SMASH HIM TO SMITHEREENS! UNDERSTAND?!
YES, SIR...


LEMME GO! LET GO! I'VE GOTTA SEE HIM!
BAM
BAM
SLAM
CRASH!
WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET ABOUT?

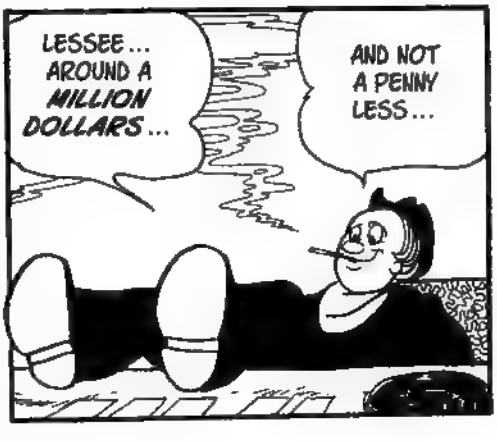

BOSS! THIS OLD FOGEY KEEPS YELLING ABOUT NEEDING TO SEE DAMDAM'S HEAD!
I'M DR. MAXUN, HEAD OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE ROBOT HOSPITAL...

WELL, WELL... WHAT A PLEASURE... HAVE A SEAT...


I WANT DAMDAM'S HEAD BACK! AND BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, I'M WILLING TO PAY...

WELL, WELL. IT'S WORTH A LOT TO ME...

HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT?


LESSEE... AROUND A MILLION DOLLARS...
AND NOT A PENNY LESS...

ONE...
MIL...
...LION
DOL...
...LARS
?
!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! EVEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULDN'T PAY THAT MUCH!
WELL... DAMDAM'S HEAD IS AWFULLY VALUABLE...
...AND I WON'T SETTLE FOR LESS.
IT'S HARD TO PART WITH IT, SEE? HEH HEH HEH... FRANKLY, IT'S A STEAL AT A MILLION!
YOU FIEND! ALWAYS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE!
YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW DANGEROUS THAT HEAD IS! USE IT THE WRONG WAY AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE DESTROYED -- ALL HUMANS! ALL LIFE!
NOW THINGS'RE GETTING INTERESTING...
USE THAT HEAD THE WRONG WAY, MR. SKUNK KUSAI, AND IT COULD BE THE END OF THE HUMAN RACE!

NEVER SEEN 'IM...
HE LOOKS LIKE THIS...
NOPE, NEVER MADE ONE LIKE THAT HERE...
SEEMS LIKE IT OUGHTA BE EASY TO FIND A FACTORY THAT MADE A ROBOT THAT BIG...
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO CHECK ANOTHER HUNDRED OR SO...
NOPE.
NEVER HEARD OF 'IM...
HEY, TIMES ARE TOUGH... HOW COULD WE MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
BANKRUPTCY
HEY! WE SPECIALIZE IN ANIMAL ROBOTS, NOT HUMANOIDS!

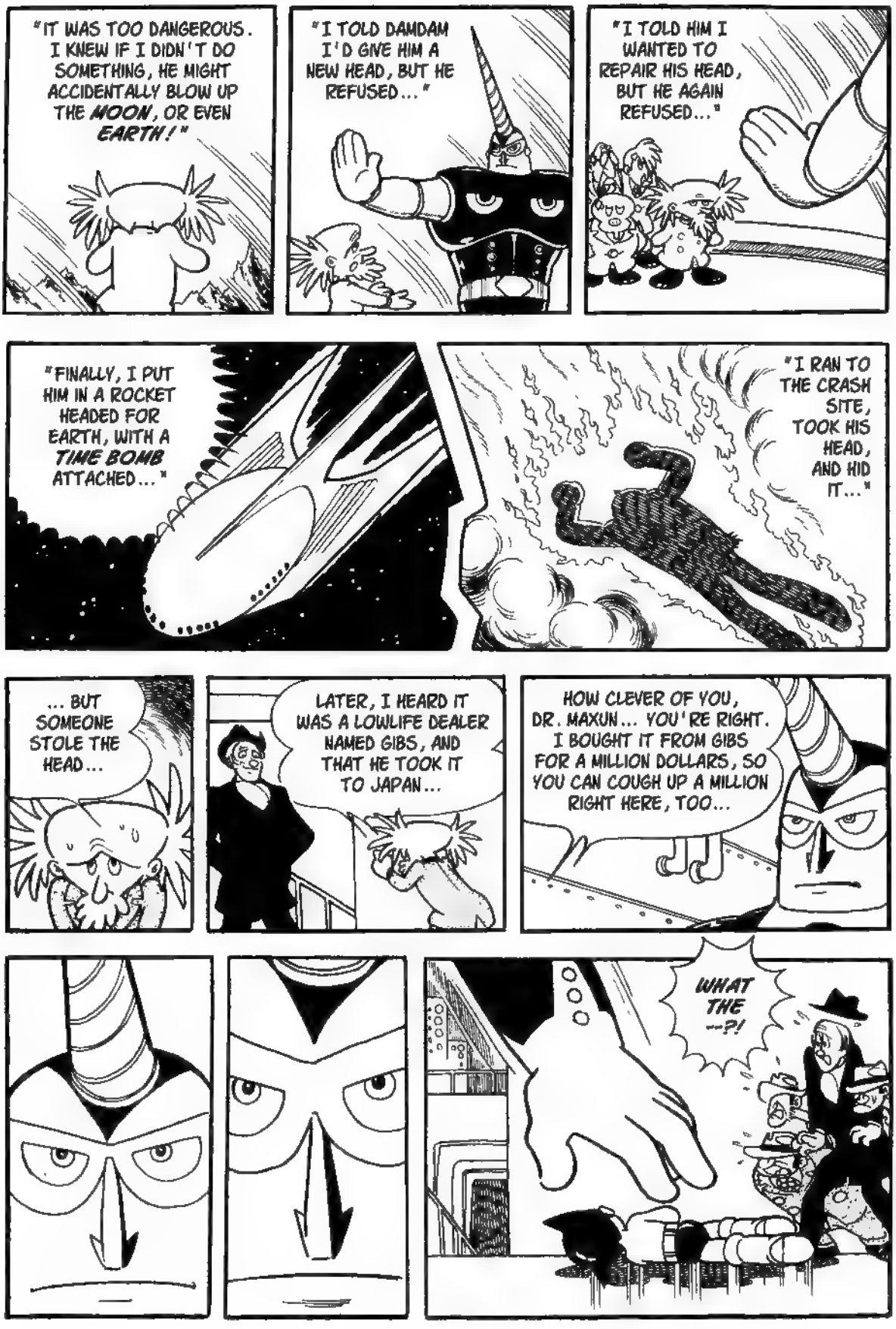
NOPE, NEVER SEEN HIM...
YOU'RE LYING!!
NO USE HIDING IT, MISTER! I KNOW YOU MADE HIM!!
DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'! NOTHIN'! NOTHIN'!! I SWEAR!
LIAR! I CAN TELL WHEN PEOPLE AREN'T TELLING THE TRUTH!
I BET SOMEONE'S FORCING YOU TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, RIGHT? MAYBE EVEN PAID YOU!?
NOPE... NEVER GOT A NICKEL TO KEEP QUIET!
YOU'RE LYING AGAIN!
KAZING
BLAM
NOW I KNOW WHY YOU COULDN'T TALK!
RATATATAT
WATCH OUT!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

LIKE STACKING UP A FAMILY OF TURTLES!
OKAY, WHO'S YOUR BOSS?!
SKU..
...NK
IT'S ACCU-PRESSURE NAPTIME FOR YOU GUYS NOW!
≠BOMP≠
THEY SAID "SKUNK"... THE GANGSTER, SKUNK KUSAI!
YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE ME TO HIM, MISTER!
TIME FOR A DIS-GUISE...
THIS WAY THEY'LL THINK I'M A MAID ROBOT!
DON'T LET THE BAD GUYS SCARE YOU, MISTER... I'LL PROTECT YOU...

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
UM, IT'S... IT'S ABOUT A MAID FOR THE ROBOT, G12...
HMPH. DON'T REMEMBER ORDERING ONE...
G12, SOMEBODY'S HERE WITH A MAID FOR YOU...
GUESS YOU'VE REALLY GOTTEN IMPORTANT...
WELL, I DO NEED SOMEONE TO CHECK THIS LOOSE BOLT ON MY SHOULDER...
LOOKS FINE, SIR!
LEMME CHECK YOUR NECK BOLTS, TOO...
POP
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

WHY YOU... YOU LOOSENED MY NECK!!
POP
ASTRO BOY?!
I'M HERE FOR THE HEAD, G12! HAND IT OVER!
NEVER!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
YOUR HEAD'S ABOUT TO COME OFF, AND YOUR AIM'S GETTING WORSE!
CRAK
WHY YOU...

AIEEE!
ZAAAP
THUD
WELL, WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T ASTRO BOY... TRYING TO LOOK SO COOL... TOO BAD...
DID YOU SHUT OFF HIS ENERGY?
HE'S BEEN MY BITTER ENEMY FOR NEARLY TWENTY YEARS, AND MADE A FOOL OUT OF ME MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT... BUT NOW WITH THE HELP OF G12, WE CAN FINALLY SMASH HIM TO BITS!
SO, DR. MAXUN, FIX NO. 12'S NECK!
WAIT, MR. KUSAI, LISTEN TO ME...
"WHEN DAMDAM WAS WORKING ON THE MOON ONCE, HE BLEW UP AN ENTIRE MOUNTAIN IN A FLASH..."

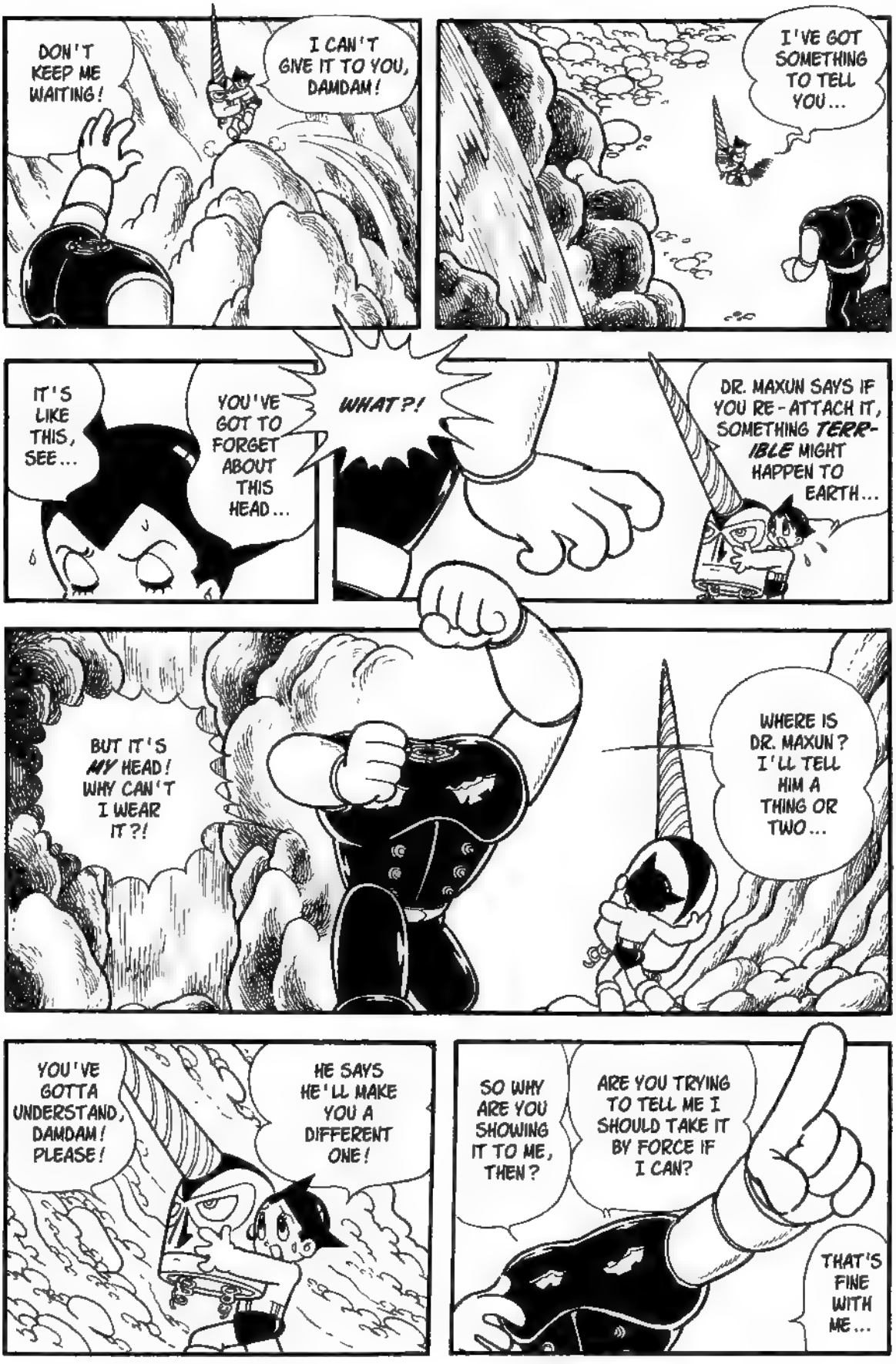

"IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS. I KNEW IF I DIDN'T DO SOMETHING, HE MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY BLOW UP THE MOON, OR EVEN EARTH!"
"I TOLD DAMDAM I'D GIVE HIM A NEW HEAD, BUT HE REFUSED..."
"I TOLD HIM I WANTED TO REPAIR HIS HEAD, BUT HE AGAIN REFUSED..."
"FINALLY, I PUT HIM IN A ROCKET HEADED FOR EARTH, WITH A TIME BOMB ATTACHED..."
"I RAN TO THE CRASH SITE, TOOK HIS HEAD, AND HID IT..."
... BUT SOMEONE STOLE THE HEAD...
LATER, I HEARD IT WAS A LOWLIFE DEALER NAMED GIBS, AND THAT HE TOOK IT TO JAPAN...
HOW CLEVER OF YOU, DR. MAXUN... YOU'RE RIGHT. I BOUGHT IT FROM GIBS FOR A MILLION DOLLARS, SO YOU CAN COUGH UP A MILLION RIGHT HERE, TOO...
WHAT THE --?!

G12! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! DON'T REFUEL ASTRO!!
WHY YOU LUNK-HEAD ROBOT!
I'VE GOT MY ENERGY BACK! NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, SKUNK KUSAI!
BONK
BASH
KABOMP
POW

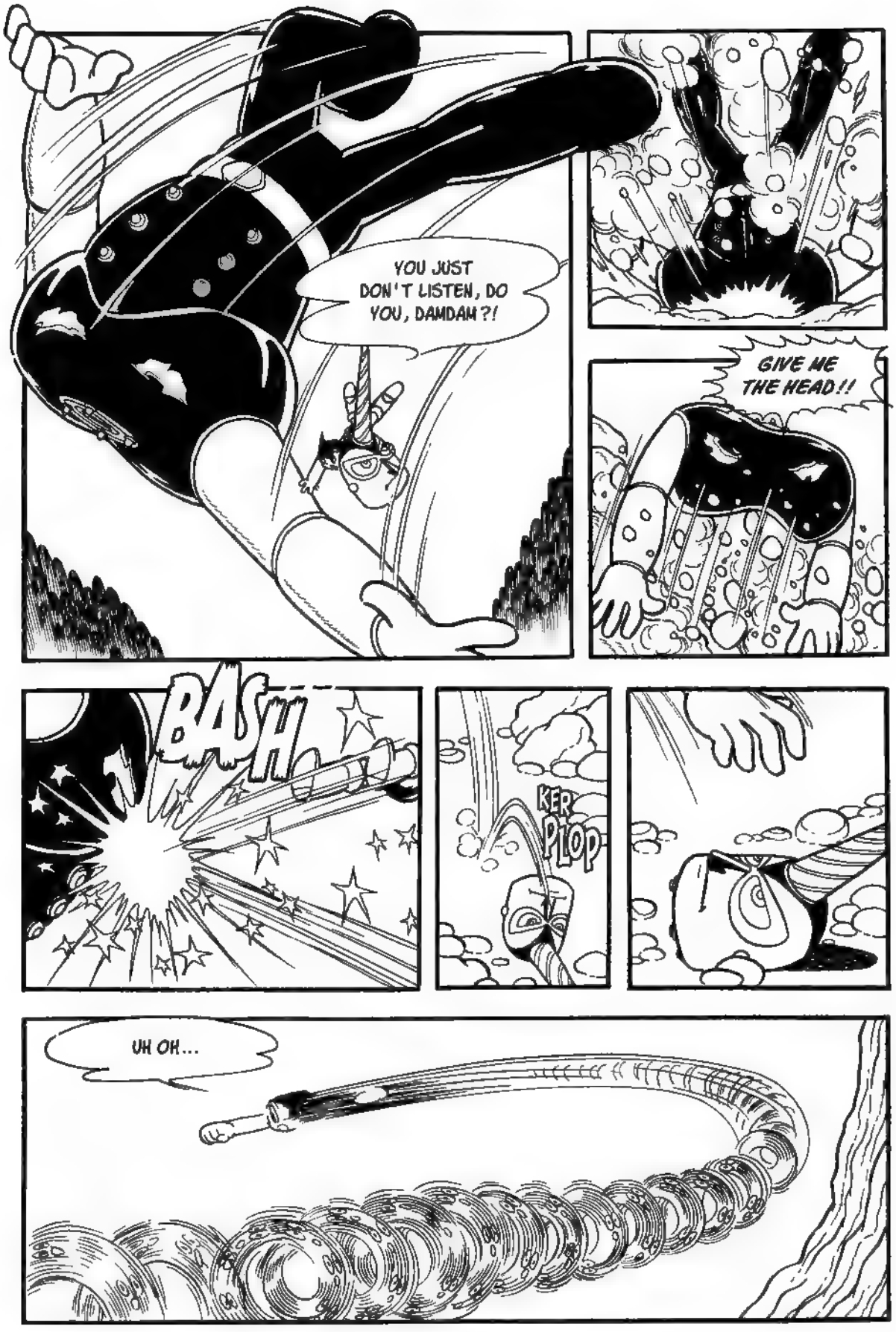
.....
.....
DR. MAXUN... DO ME A FAVOR AND TAKE THIS HEAD OFF...
WHAT?!
I WANT YOU TO MAKE ME A NEW ONE AND ATTACH IT... HA HA HA!
KATHUD
SORRY IT TURNED OUT THIS WAY, GIZ...
I NEED TO BORROW THE HEAD, DR. MAXUN ...
DAMDAM'S WAITING FOR IT...
DAM-DAM?! WHERE ON EARTH IS HE?!

HE'S WAITING FOR ME TO BRING HIM BACK HIS HEAD... I PROMISED HIM...
NO!! NO, NO, NO!
PUT THAT HEAD BACK ON HIM, AND GOD KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN!!
OKAY... BUT I PROMISED HIM...
I'VE GOTTA TAKE IT BACK TO HIM...
I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN THINGS TO HIM...
THERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT, I GUESS... BUT YOU'VE GOT TO PERSUADE HIM TO GIVE UP THE IDEA, ASTRO...
I'LL DO MY BEST...

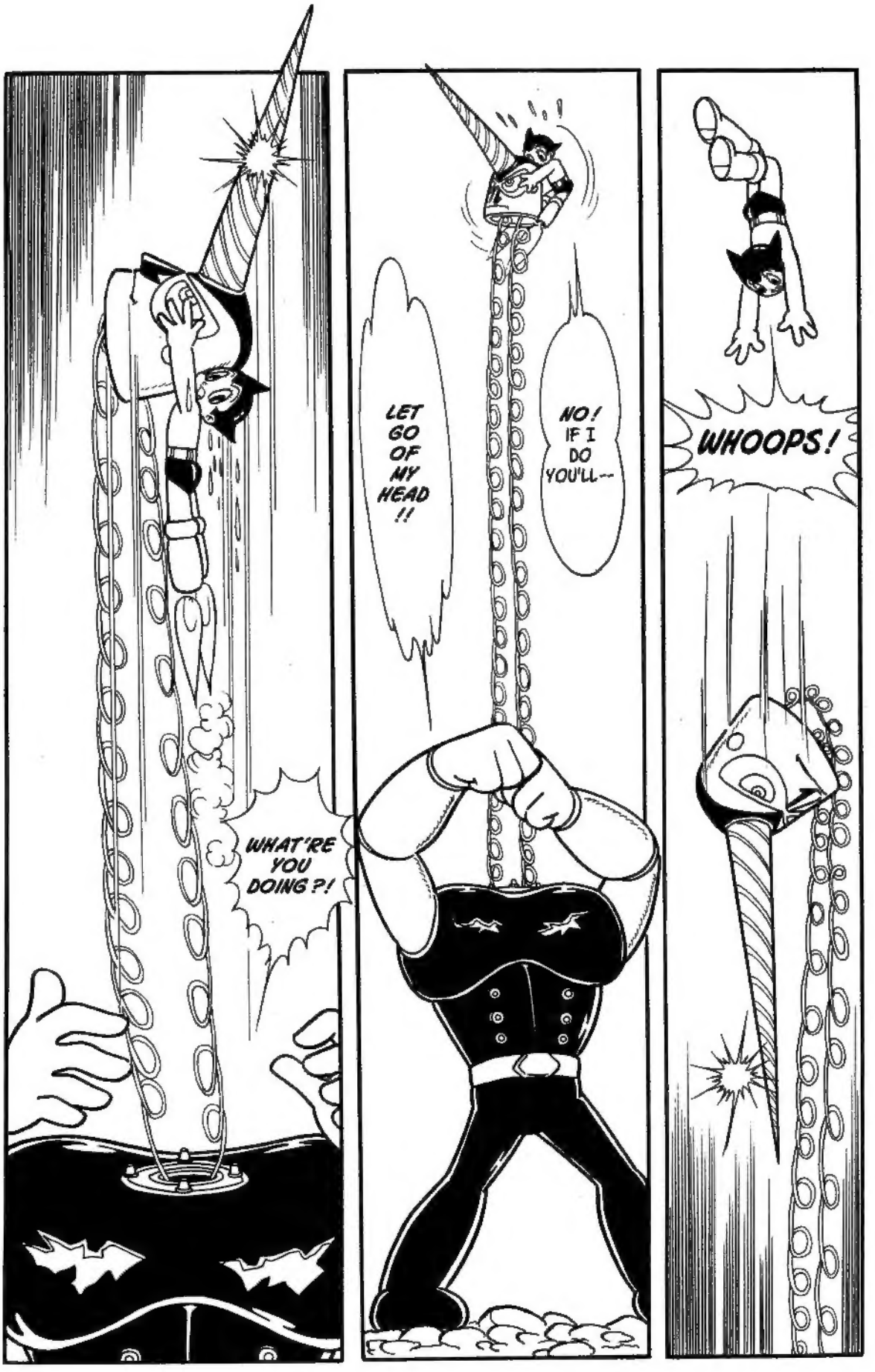
YOU BROUGHT MY HEAD!!!
MY DEAR HEAD! ASTRO BOY! HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU?!
PUT 'ER RIGHT HERE, ON MY NECK...
UM, DAMDAM, WE'VE GOTTA TALK...

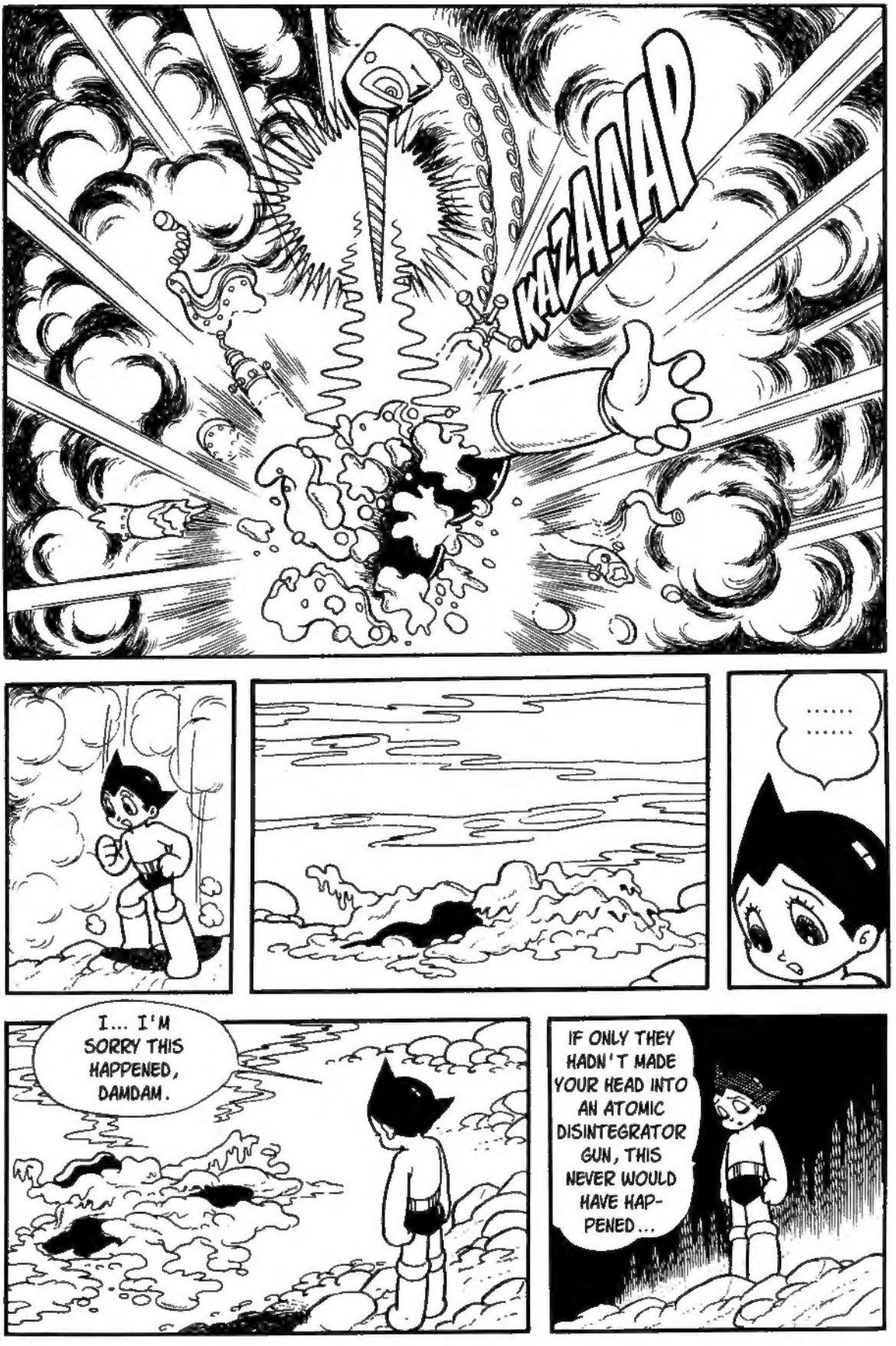

DON'T KEEP ME WAITING!
I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU, DAMDAM!
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU...
IT'S LIKE THIS, SEE...
YOU'VE GOT TO FORGET ABOUT THIS HEAD...
WHAT?!
DR. MAXUN SAYS IF YOU RE-ATTACH IT, SOMETHING TERRIBLE MIGHT HAPPEN TO EARTH...
BUT IT'S MY HEAD! WHY CAN'T I WEAR IT?!
WHERE IS DR. MAXUN? I'LL TELL HIM A THING OR TWO...
YOU'VE GOTTA UNDERSTAND, DAMDAM! PLEASE!
HE SAYS HE'LL MAKE YOU A DIFFERENT ONE!
SO WHY ARE YOU SHOWING IT TO ME, THEN?
ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME I SHOULD TAKE IT BY FORCE IF I CAN?
THAT'S FINE WITH ME...

HAND IT OVER, ASTRO BOY!
I... I CAN'T, DAMDAM!
BUT IT'S MY HEAD!
UGH...
BASH
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET YOU SEE IT...
GIVE ME THAT THING! NOW!


YOU JUST DON'T LISTEN, DO YOU, DAMDAM?!
GIVE ME THE HEAD!!
BASH
KER PLOP
UH OH...

KAPOW
ARGH!!
UH OH...
BAM
BASH
DON'T... PUT... THAT... THING... ON...


WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
LET GO OF MY HEAD !!
NO! IF I DO YOU'LL--
WHOOPS!


KAZAAAP
.....
.....
I... I'M SORRY THIS HAPPENED, DAMDAM.
IF ONLY THEY HADN'T MADE YOUR HEAD INTO AN ATOMIC DISINTEGRATOR GUN, THIS NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED...

WHY DID HUMANS EVEN MAKE A ROBOT LIKE THIS...?
WHY?

Dark Horse Comics brings the original Astro Boy to America for the first time in an English-language edition!

Osamu Tezuka's *Astro Boy* has for fifty years represented the best in all-ages graphic fiction and is regarded universally as the launching pad for the worldwide manga and anime explosion. Filled with humor, action, drama, and humanity – not to mention robots! – *Astro Boy* will remind you why comics first grabbed your heart and imagination. In this volume, Astro remains stranded in the 20th century, but he's certainly not lying about! Astro must save the Earth from a voracious Martian fungus – and save the intelligent organism from the hydrogen bomb – all the while having to begin the fight for robot's rights and keep robots from fighting each other!

Translation by Frederik L. Schodt , author of *Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics* and translator of *Barefoot Gen.*

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